--EH?
--DON'T "EH?" ME! IT SHOULD BE "YESSIR!"
--AH... YESSIR.
--THE NEXT TIME I HEAR "EH?" FROM YOU, I'LL SLAP YOU, GOT IT?
--EH?

SLAAAAP!!!

...TO THIS DAY, I CANNOT ESCAPE THIS CURSE (LOL)

TERAJIMA YUUJI

Yuji Terajima Presents

Ace of Diamond

ダイヤのA エース

30

寺嶋裕二

講談社

KCM1643
KC
ダイヤのA
30
寺嶋裕二
講談社

9784063846430
雑誌 41088-15
ISBN978-4-06-384643-0
C9979 ¥429E (1)
1929979004293
講談社
定価 本体429円(税別)

Ace of Diamond

Seidou advanced through the first round of the Fall tournament by defeating a powerhouse, Teizo. The new team started to show growth through even more competitiveness that makes rivals to be wary of one another and pushes them to improve by leaps and bounds.
Seidou's nemesis, Inashiki, should be waiting for them in the third round, since the cross upon whom Seidou swore to take revenge for the summer defeat won their own second round game.
All the Seidou players share the same sentiments.

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～

以下続刊

COVER ILLUSTRATION ◆ YUJI TERAJIMA
COVER DESIGN ◆ KAZUHIRO KUMAMOTO (dig)

2012.3
KC

30
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

KATAOKA TESSHIN
The demonic head coach, who trusts the team members from the bottom of his heart and guides them sometimes with passion, other times with strictness
PITCHER
SAWAMURA EIJUN
His defining feature is a moving pitch with the release point not visible to the batter. His forte is his strong, unbreakable heart. A first year.
2ND. BASEMAN
KOMINATO HARUICHI
Has excellent bat control and consistently high batting average. Kominato Ryousuke is his older brother. A first year.
PITCHER
FURUYA SATORU
A flamethrower with powerful batting. Has a low stamina problem. A first year.
CATCHER
MIYUKI KAZUYA
A genius catcher who can bring out pitchers' talents. In the past, was invited to be his catcher by Inajitsu's Narumiga. A second year.
Seidou High School
青道高校

MAEZONO KENTA

A kind of older brother who is a team leader along with Miyuki. Has a low batting average at the moment.
A second year.

SHIRASU KENJIROU

Taciturn and low-key, his plays are solid in both offense and defense. Best friends with Kawakami.
A second year.

KURAMOCHI YOUICHI

Sawamura's roommate. Loves bullying Sawamura. Has a high running speed and defensive capabilities.
A second year.

KAWAKAMI NORIFUMI

A relief pitcher with plenty of relieving experience. Somewhat faint of heart.
A second year.

KANEMARU SHINJI

Sawamura's classmate, who helps him with studies and such. Aims to become a regular.
A first year.

TOUJOU HIDEAKI

A former pitcher who switched to playing outfield to be able to play in matches. Talented in batting.
A first year.

HIGASA SHOUJI

His shaved head stands out. Consistently showing results landed him the spot of the regular 3rd baseman.
A second year.

ASOU TAKERU

A contestant for one of the 2 remaining regular spots in outfield.
A second year.

OCHIAI HIROMITSU

A new coach, who came to Seidou from another famous powerful school. Currently, busy observing the players in detail.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 257
SOLE REASON FOR VICTORY 5

CHAPTER 258
STONE 25

CHAPTER 259
MY PATH 45

CHAPTER 260
BACK OR FORWARD? 65

CHAPTER 261
YOU'VE THROWN IT 85

CHAPTER 262
BIG INNING 105

CHAPTER 263
FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART 125

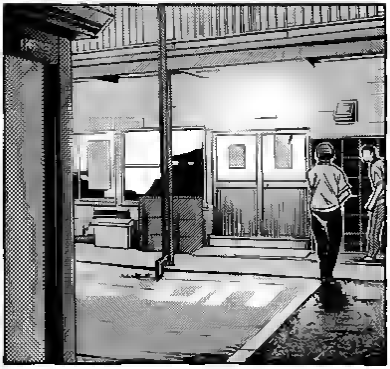
CHAPTER 264
FLOWER 145

CHAPTER 265
STARTING LINE 165

●週刊少年マガジン2011年第44号～第52号

この物語はフィクションであり
実在の人物、団体、出来事などとは
一切関係ありません

CHAPTER 257
SOLE REASON FOR VICTORY



BUT SERIOUSLY, THAT WAS AN AWESOME HIT!
MASTER PIECE
有頂天
WAHAHAHA
EVEN THOUGH HE FINALLY LANDED A GOOD HIT, HE GOT HIMSELF RETIRED MILES OFF OF THIRD BASE!
SHUDDUP!
WITH HOW DUMBFOUNDED HE HIMSELF WAS, WE CAN HARDLY DEPEND ON HIM FOR CRUCIAL PLAYS!
H-HEY, YOU NOT GONNA GO TRAIN NOW, ARE YOU?
AH RIGHT!
HEY, KOMINATO, LET'S GET GOING!
Oh
I GOTTA ENGRAVE IT INTO MY BONES WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH AND MY BODY STILL REMEMBERS THE FEELING.
I CAN'T LET MYSELF FORGET THE SENSA-TION OF TODAY'S HIT!

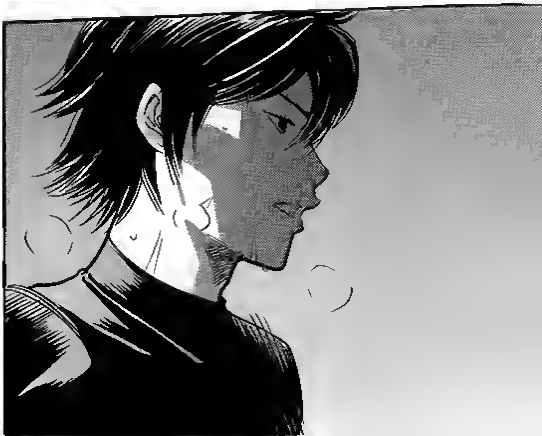
ZONO-SAN, YOU LOOK SO COOL
JUST HOW MUCH OF A WORKAHOLIC ARE YOU, JEEZ
TAKE A BREAK TONIGHT AT LEAST! AREN'T YOU SWINGING YOUR BAT TILL YOU DROP ON A REGULAR BASIS?
HEY, MIYUKI.
YEAH CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO HIM
SHOULD WE GO, TOO?

NAH, LET HIM RUN ALL HE WANTS

FURUYA IS STILL RUNNING LAPS
SHOULD WE MAYBE STOP HIM?

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE FELL APART ON THE MOUND
HE GOTTA ANSWER FOR THAT IN FULL WITH NOTHING *SHORT OF HIS LIFE*

TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE IF THAT'LL MAKE HANDLING HIM EASIER!
YOUR TRUE COLORS ARE SHOWING!
AND THEY'RE BLACK! PURE EVIL!



HE WAS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY.
WE SHOULD'VE PAID MORE ATTENTION, TOO, I GUESS, BUT STILL,
THE DIFFERENCE FROM BEFORE THE GAME GOT PUT ON HOLD WAS WAY TOO OVER THE TOP,
.....
IN THAT SENSE, THIS GAME PRODUCED QUITE A FEW INTERESTING RESULTS.
I CAN ONLY SAY THIS BECAUSE WE'VE WON SOMEHOW OR OTHER
SPEAKING OF WE ALMOST WENT DOWN THE PATH OF LOSING RIGHT AFTER HAVING GONE THROUGH THE PAINS OF TURNING THE GAME AROUND AND SEIZING THE LEAD
BECAUSE OF KAWAKAMI
I KNOW, RIGHT? JUST IMAGINING IT LEAVES ME TERRIFIED TO THE CORE.
CUT IT OUT! ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, SO LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT!

SEARCH
Fall tourn. 1st round!!!
EDIT MSG
It's been so long since you last replied to mail from me
So... you pitched today, Eijun?
(° _ °)
You haven't thrown in official
You haven't thrown in official matches since the summer, right?
Ah, zip it
Still, I just can't picture you, of all people, relentlessly attacking the outside corner (°_°)
I WISH YOU SAW ME IN THAT RAIN
Hecy!
FUHAHAHA
You're making them mad!
THAT STUPIDLY HAPPY MUG
SO OBNOXIOUS
BANG! AND THEN
T-1000
OH WELL, HE ACTUALLY DID A GOOD JOB PITCHING TODAY
PERFECT, BELIEVING IN FACT...

You took a big step to the next stage.
From Eijun?
Everybody can't wait to see how you evolved
Btw, we're already out...TT
I WAS ABLE TO PITCH IN A MATCH
AND I WAS ABLE TO HOLD THE OPPONENTS OFF WITH ONLY LOW AND AWAY PITCHES...
TO STAND ON THAT MOUND AGAIN...

...I'LL GET--
IF I COULD ALSO ADD THE INSIDE CORNER PITCHES TO THAT...
WOO-HOO~~
I FEEL SO EXCITED NOW!!!
ALL THE WHILE FURUYA IS STILL RUNNING
WHAT?!!
WAKANA?
NEW MAIL FROM WAKANA?
YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF TO BE HAPPILY RELAXING HERE, EH

WEEELL
IT WAS A NICE GAME
OUR VICTORY WASN'T CERTAIN TILL THE LAST MINUTE, BUT STILL...
AND MAEZONO FINALLY MANAGED TO LAND A SUPERB HIT
HIS HIT IS BOUND TO GIVE OUR TEAM THE MOMENTUM FOR THE NEXT STAGE, DON'T YOU THINK?
WELL, AMONG THE CURRENT TEAM MAEZONO IS THE ONE WHO PRACTICES HIS SWING THE MOST.
INDEED. HE WAS ABLE TO FLAWLESSLY RECOGNIZE AN INSIDE CORNER PITCH
AND RATHER THAN HITTING AFTER SPECIFICALLY TARGETING IT, HE MANAGED TO CONNECT WITH IT NATURALLY, WITHOUT ANY STRAIN

I'M SURE HIS EXAMPLE IS PROVIDING A STRONG SOURCE OF MOTIVATION FOR THE REST OF THE TEAM
ESPECIALLY FOR THE MEMBERS WHO AREN'T PLAYING IN MATCHES.
NO MATTER HOW HARD THE RESERVES MIGHT BE WORKING, IT WILL CHANGE NOTHING.
AND IT MUST BE QUITE FRUSTRATING TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT PART OF VARSITY.
SOME OF THOSE WITH WHOM TILL THIS FALL, THEY COULD ONLY WATCH GAMES FROM THE BLEACHERS ARE NOW INVOLVED IN CREATING THE HAPPY MOMENTS FOR THE TEAM.

MAY I ASK SOME-THING?
ABOUT THE PITCHER RELAY IN THE SIXTH INNING...
I SUPPOSE GIVING UP ON FURUYA AND SWITCHING HIM OUT SO QUICKLY WAS THE RIGHT DECISION,
RESULTS-WISE...
BUT, WHY DID YOUR CHOICE FALL ON SAWAMURA?
KAWAKAMI WOULD HAVE BEEN A SAFER OPITION, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
"D-DEFECT"...?
WHILE SAWAMURA HAS A BIG "DEFECT" BECAUSE OF THE YIPS...
...

THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND.
AT THAT POINT, SAWAMURA WAS THE ONLY ONE READY TO GO IN RIGHT AWAY.
....
IT DIDN'T MATTER TO HIM THAT OUR OPPONENT WAS THE FAMOUS TEITOU,
AND THAT'S IT...?
HE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO PITCH IN HIS OWN STYLE AND MAKE IT WORK.

THE PITCHING SAWAMURA SHOWED DID A GREAT SERVICE TO THE TEAM.
OF COURSE, TEITOU WAS WARY OF HIS INSIDE PITCHES, AND IT HELPED A GREAT DEAL,
BUT HE DID A COMMENDABLE JOB PITCHING UP TILL THE EIGHTH INNING, WHICH WASN'T IN MY PLAN ORIGINALLY
TO THE TEAM?
...
YES.
THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH A PERSON CAN IMPROVE WHEN THEY ARE JUST ON THEIR OWN

DESPITE BEING CRIPPLED...
HE STILL MANAGED TO PITCH LIKE THAT

IF NOTHING ELSE, TO YOU, EVER!
I AIN'T GONNA GIVE UP MY WINNING STAR IN RUNNING,
T-1000
AND COMPETE WITH AMONG ONE'S TEAMMATES
Alright
IT IS THE EXISTENCE OF THE RIVALS
TO BE WARY OF

THAT MAKES ONE WORK HARDER
LEGEND
AND GROW STRONGER BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

THAT IS WHY THEY ARE ABLE TO EASILY SURPASS OUR EXPECTATIONS.
ROOSEVELT

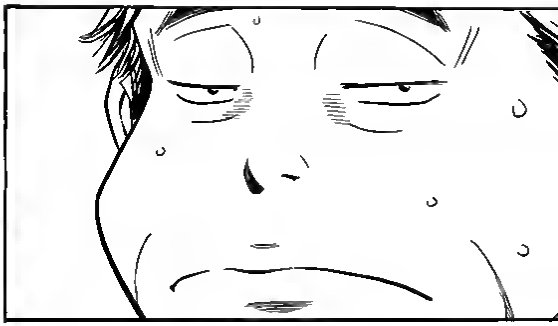
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SACRIFICING THE TEAM FOR JUST FURUYA.
I WOULD CENTER THE TEAM AROUND FURUYA THIS FALL!
RAISING FURUYA AS THE ACE IS
THE SHORTEST WAY TO KOUSHIEN, DON'T YOU AGREE?

WHEN THE TEAM EVOLVES AS THE WHOLE, THE PLAYERS GROW STRONGER AS WELL.
THAT'S WHAT THE PREVIOUS TEAM SHOWED ME.

COACH KATAOKA ...
JUST 1 MORE WIN AND WE WILL BE UP AGAINST INAJITSU!
THE PLAYERS ARE BURNING WITH THE DESIRE TO MAKE UP FOR THAT PAINFULL LOSS.
LET'S PAY INAJITSU BACK FOR THE SUMMER!
I WAS CURIOUS TO SEE HOW HE WOULD GO ABOUT WINNING AGAINST TEITOU...
NOW I SEE HOW.
...A TEAM THAT GROWS STRONGER WITH EACH MATCH, HUH...
SO WHAT HE'S TRYING TO ACHIEVE IS...

THE PLAYERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES EVOLVING HERE...

I NEED TO START MAKING MY PRESENCE KNOWN,
OTHER-WISE MY SITUATION MIGHT TURN PRECARI-OUS



CHAPTER 258
STONE

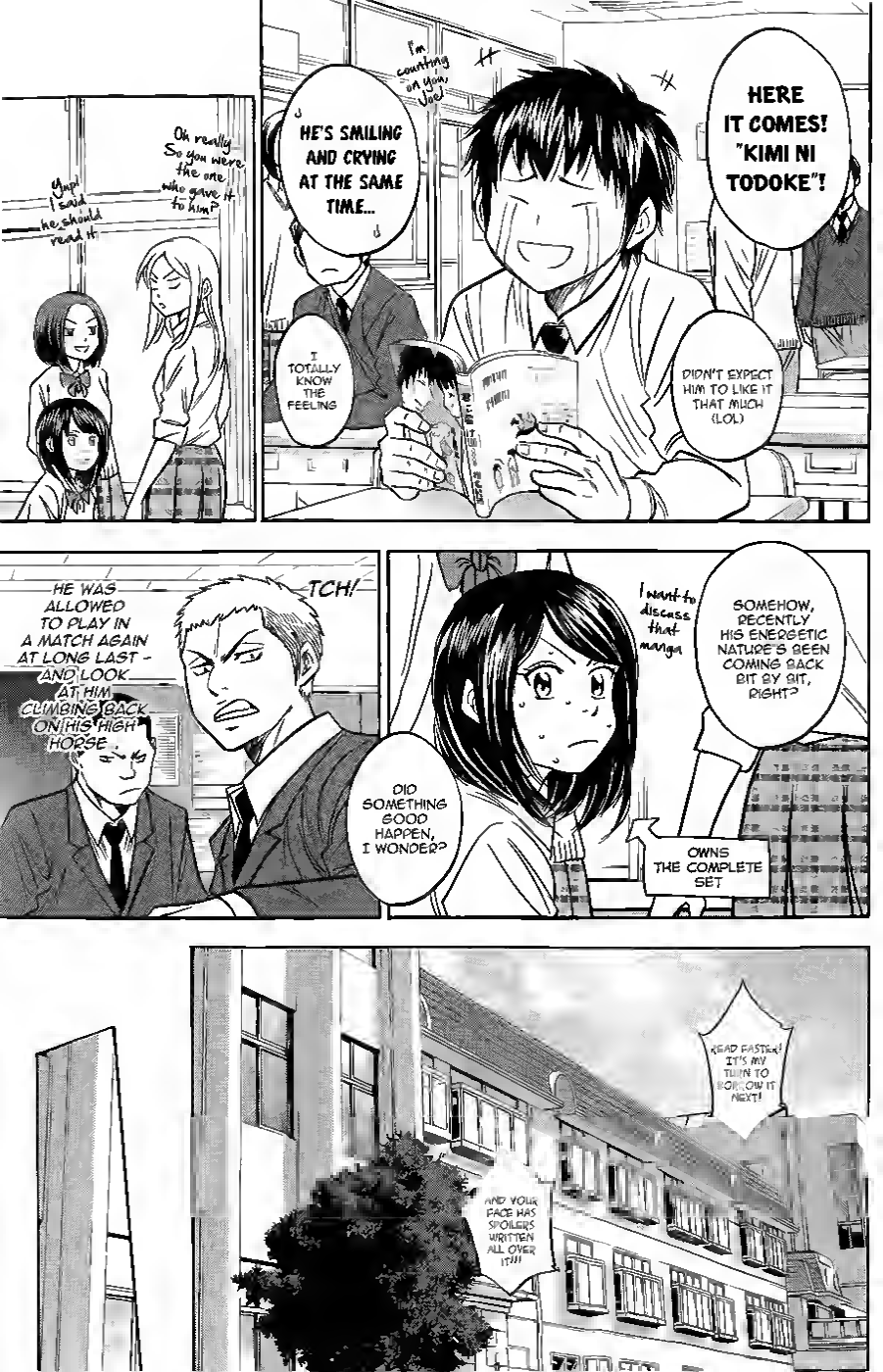
HEY! WE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOUR FEATS!
YOU WON AGAINST TEITOU, RIGHT?!
I BELIEVED IN YOU ALL ALONG
THANK YOU SIR!!!
THE ONE TO SCORE THE WINNING HIT WAS ZONO, OF ALL PEOPLE, EH!
SO YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY HUH
JUN-SAN.
OH WELL, IF IT WAS ME THO', I'D BLOW THE BALL RIGHT OUTTA THE PARK!

NARUMIYA THE BASTARD MUST'VE ACCUMULATED FATIGUE FROM THE SUMMER!
PLAY HIM!!! YOU HAVE MY PERMI-SSION!
MAKE IT GO WELL !!!
IF YOU WIN YOUR NEXT GAME, YOU'LL BE UP AGAINST INAJITSU IN THE THIRD ROUND, RIGHT?
YES... IF ALL GOES WELL...
I'LL HELP YA OUT AS A PINCH HITTER, 'KAY?
YOU CAN'T, JUN-SAN!
NOT YOU, TOO, RYOU-SAN!
I THINK I CAN PULL IT OFF WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT
IF I SWITCH WITH HARUICHI
TO DEAL HIM THE FINISHING BLOW!
2-B
YOU REALLY GET ALONG WITH HIM, HUH
---AND BECAUSE HE HAD THE GALL TO SAY THAT TO ME, I PUT HIM INTO THE GRAND OCTOPUS HOLD AND MADE HIM CRY!
NO WAY!!! NOT WITH THAT SNACK-MUNCHER!!!
MIYUKI.

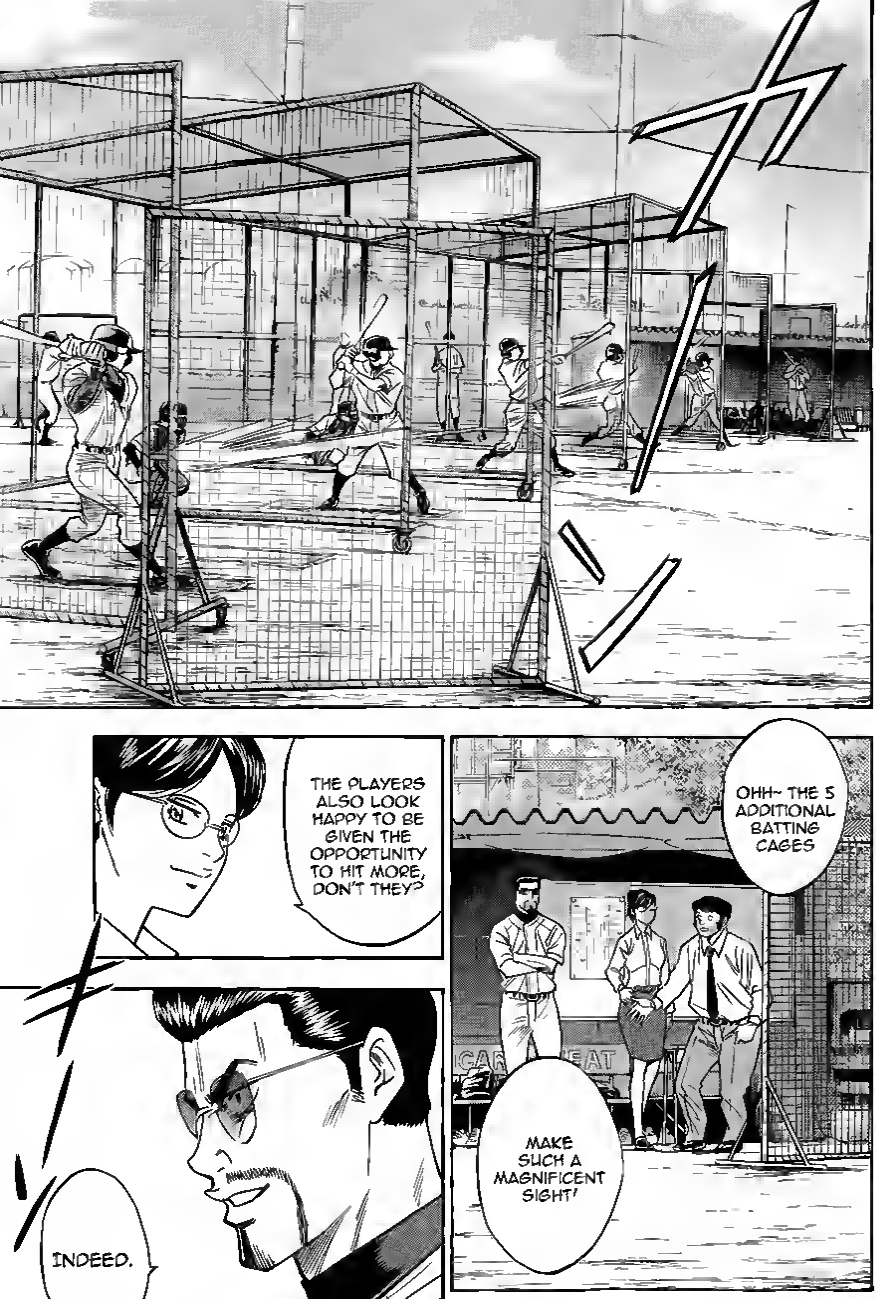
FOR YOU TO COME HERE FROM THE CLASS NEXT DOOR, NABE-CHAN... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU...?
BASEBALL TEAM 2ND YEAR
WATANABE HISASHI
N-NO, IT'S NOT THAT... JUST...
AH! MIYUKI-KUN, HERE.
THE GROUPS FOR THE FIELD TRIP.
HERE FOR YOU, TOO, KURAMOCHI!
WHY NO HONORIFICS WITH ME?!
HAHA... TRUE. IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM THE DORMS THIS WAY.
Awful.
...
IT MIGHT OVERLAP WITH YOUR TOURNA-MENT,
SO THE MEMBERS OF THE BASEBALL TEAM GOT PUT TOGETHER IN THE SAME GROUP

THE BASEBALL TEAM MEMBERS AIN'T GOING.
LOSING IN THE TOURNAMENT IS NOT IN OUR PLANS!
RIGHT?
EH...? Y-YES, OF COURSE!
Eh?
Here! Take it back!
I SEE... WHAT A PITY IT WAS SUCH A GREAT CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW YOUR CLASSMATES...
SHUT IT!
BLAME THOSE IN CHANGE OF THE TRIP'S ARRANGEMENTS! THEY TOTALLY DON'T WANT US TO GO!
IT'S CONSPIRACY BY THE PRINCIPAL!
...
SO? WHAT IS IT?

H-HEY...
EH?
SORRY... ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT, REALLY..
.....
SO, WHAT IS SAWAMURA READING TODAY?
THE OTHER DAY HE GAVE UP ON 'CRIME AND PUNISHMENT' ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, RIGHT?
SAID HE COULDN'T REMEMBER THE MAIN CHARACTER'S NAME (LOL?)
1-C


HERE IT COMES! "KIMI NI TODOKE"!
I'm counting on you, Yuki
HE'S SMILING AND CRYING AT THE SAME TIME...
I TOTALLY KNOW THE FEELING
DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO LIKE IT THAT MUCH (LOL)
Oh really? So you were the one who gave it to him?
Yup! I said he should read it
SOMEHOW, RECENTLY HIS ENERGETIC NATURE'S BEEN COMING BACK BIT BY BIT, RIGHT?
I want to discuss that manga
OWNS THE COMPLETE SET
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN, I WONDER?
TCH!
HE WAS ALLOWED TO PLAY IN A MATCH AGAIN AT LONG LAST - AND LOOK AT HIM CLIMBING BACK ON HIS HIGH HORSE
READ FASTER! IT'S MY TURN TO BORROW IT NEXT!
AND YOUR FACE HAS SPOILERS WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!!!

S


OHH~ THE 5 ADDITIONAL BATTING CAGES
MAKE SUCH A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT!
THE PLAYERS ALSO LOOK HAPPY TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO HIT MORE, DON'T THEY?
INDEED.

COACH OCHIAI WAS THE ONE WHO PROPOSED THIS ARRANGE-MENT
EH?
OUR PRACTICE FORMAT IS USUALLY THAT OF A REAL GAME SIMULATION
WHICH MAKES THE MEMEBERS OF OUR TEAM TAKE BASEBALL VERY SERIOUSLY AT ALL TIMES
...
Hmh
I see.
SO COACH OCHIAI THOUGHT THAT GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO JUST SWING THEIR HEART OUT WITHOUT THE NEED TO THINK TOO HARD FOR THE TIME BEING WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THEM.
THE SMUG FACE

WELL, THEY ALL LOVE BATTING, DON'T THEY?
WHAT'S WITH HIM, ALL OF A SUDDEN
HE IS TRYING TOO HARD
I HAVE A FEW OTHER IDEAS IN MIND, TOO
THIS IS ME AFTER ALL
RELAXING MY WHOLE BODY...
THEN, FOCUSING ALL THE NERVES

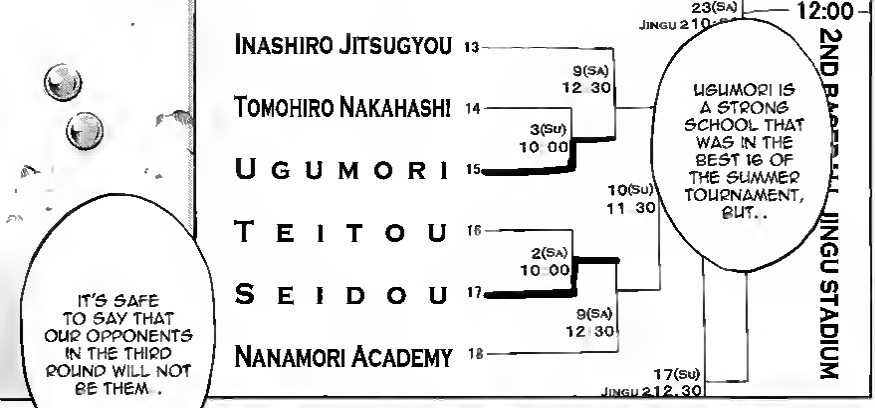
...TO ONLY ONE POINT, TO THE FINGERTIPS!
FUH
WHAT A GREAT OUTSIDE PITCH, AS USUAL!
TIMING YOUR HIT JUST RIGHT IS A REAL PAIN
I HEARD HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS
OH

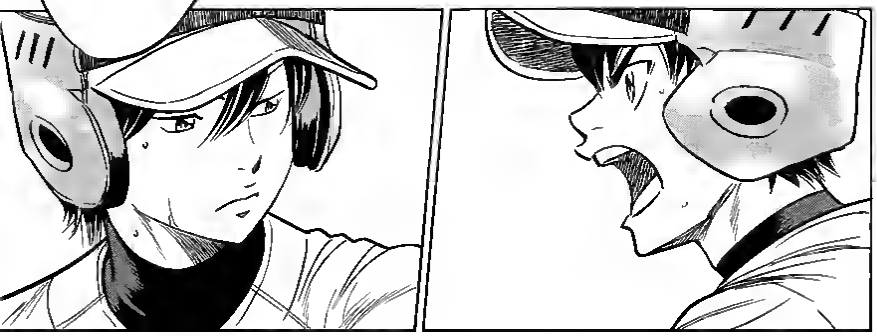
FUH
HMPH... IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY HAVE THOSE KINDS OF WEAPONS THAT THEY PARTICIPATE IN MATCHES.
THIS ONE'S ALSO A VOLUNTEER HUH...
NO TIMING NO NOTHING WITH HIM! HE'S BRUTALLY DESTROYING ANY RHYTHM I MIGHT HAVE PLAIN AND SIMPLE...

GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT, NO HOLDS BARRED, FURUYA!
WOULD BE A WASTE OF A PERFECTLY GOOD CHANCE TO GO UP AGAINST YOU OTHERWISE!
hoo
NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION TO HOLD BACK TO BEGIN WITH
NOT ONLY HIM, BUT ALSO SAWAMURA, TOUJOU AND KOMINATO ALL PLAY IN OFFICIAL GAMES..
LIKE I'LL LET MYSELF GET BURIED IN OBLIVION!
DON'T BE SURPRISED
FURUYA

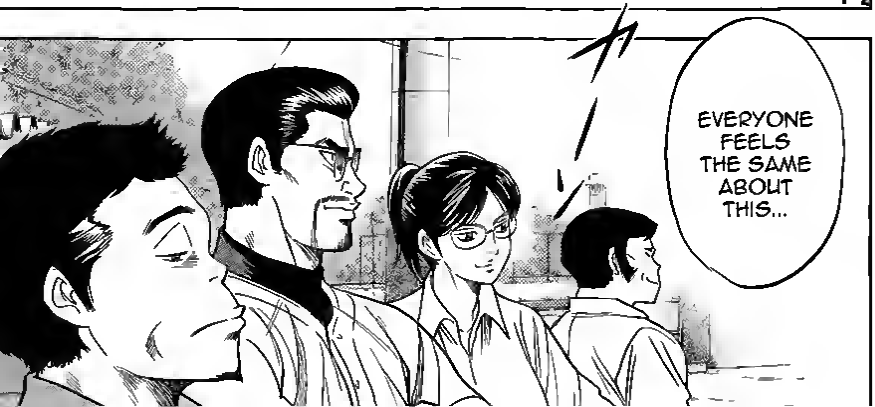
SHINJI IS ABSURDLY GOOD AT HITTING FASBALLS...
NFU
LATELY, HE'S BEEN TRYING TO ATTRACT YOUR ATTENTION, COACH...
WOOOW! HE HIT FURUYA'S FASTBALL ON THE VERY FIRST TRY!
AND HE DIDN'T JUST CONNECT! HE ALSO DIDN'T LOSE IN POWER TO FURUYA!!!

My hand hurts, damn!
C'MON! BRING IT!!!
I'D FEEL THREATENED, TOO, ESPECIALLY AFTER THAT MISTAKE YOU MADE IN DEFENSE THE OTHER DAY
....
I get you...
WAHAHAHA! AFTER YOU'RE FINISHED THERE, GET OVER HERE, KANEMARU!
BUG OFF! YOU JUST WANNA HIT ME WITH A BALL, BASTARD!
GREAT! NOT ONLY SECOND YEARS BUT ALSO FIRST YEARS ARE BRIMMING WITH ENERGY!
YES, THEY ARE IT MAY BE A GOOD TIME TO TEST OUT A FEW THINGS IN THE MATCH AGAINST NANAMORI ACADEMY ON SUNDAY
EIJUN-KUN, PLEASE BE GENTLE
WANNA FIGHT?! BUT CAN YOU?!
EVEN IF WE ASK THEM NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT FOR NOW, IT'S SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM NOT TO





INASHIRO JITSUGYOU 13



THEY ALL WANT REVENGE FOR THE SUMMER.

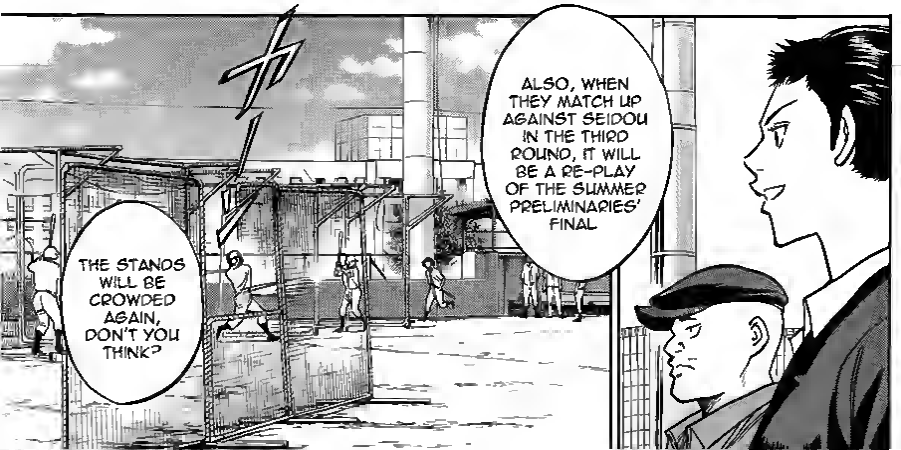
HEY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL MIYUKI WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE...?
...
OH WELL. IN THAT ATMOSPHERE SAYING IT WAS PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE. SO I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DIDN'T.
KUDOU YASUSHI
THERE IS ALSO THE COACH ISSUE TO WORRY ABOUT, SO MAYBE WE REALLY SHOULD WAIT WITH THIS TILL THE TOURNAMENT IS OVER?
HIGASHIO SHUUJI
IT'S SOMETHING I ALWAYS SENSED.
BUT LATELY, IT GOT WORSE...

THIS DIFFERENCE IN THE LEVEL OF MOTIVATION AND COMMITMENT...
IS IT REALLY OK...
カキーン
...FOR PEOPLE LIKE US TO BE ON THIS TEAM?

CHAPTER 259
MY PATH
動物

カキィン
AS ALWAYS, THEY'RE ATTRACTING QUITE A FEW REPORTERS
EZAKI, GET OVER HERE FOR A BIT!
THINGS ARE CALMER COMPARED TO THE SUMMER, BUT...
WE'RE STILL TALKING THE VICE-CHAMPIONS OF KOUSHIEN FINALLY STARTING ON THEIR WAY IN THE PLAY-OFF PART OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT

WITH 4 PLAYERS WITH KOUSHIEN EXPERIENCE ON THE MAIN FORCE STILL LEFT,
THEY'RE THE MAIN CANDIDATES FOR WINNING THE TICKET TO THE SPRING'S SENBATSU.


ALSO, WHEN THEY MATCH UP AGAINST SEIDOU IN THE THIRD ROUND, IT WILL BE A RE-PLAY OF THE SUMMER PRELIMINARIES' FINAL
THE STANDS WILL BE CROWDED AGAIN, DON'T YOU THINK?

HIS PITCHES ARE CERTAINLY IN GOOD SHAPE...
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S FATIGUED FROM THE SUMMER.
BY MINIMIZING HIS APPEARANCE IN THE BLOCK GAMES, COACH KUNITOMO ADJUSTED HIS REGIMEN TO GIVE HIM ENOUGH TIME TO RECOVER, I IMAGINE.

MEI-SAN, CHANGEUP NEXT, PLEASE.
TADANO ITSUKI
(1ST YEAR)
LOW IF POSSIBLE
FINE BY ME, BUT CAN YOU CATCH IT?
CATCHING IT IN THE BULLPEN IS MEANINGLESS IF YOU CAN'T CATCH IT IN A REAL GAME, YOU REALIZE?
AT LEAST BE SURE YOU MAKE THE BALL ROLL IN FRONT OF YOU, OTHERWISE I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHAKE OFF THIS AWFUL UNEASE WHEN THROWING IT, Y'KNOW
HE JUST WON'T LET HIM LIVE DOWN THE BALL HE PASSED IN THE BLOCK PRELIMS
HE'S DOING IT TO MAKE SURE YOU GROW AS A CATCHER I THINK
Endure, Tadano...

I WILL CATCH IT, WITHOUT FAIL!
WITH BODY DAMAGE ON THE LINE, IF NECESSARY!
AND YOU WATCH TOO MANY MOVIES AND READ TOO MUCH MANGA! GAME BRAIN!
OKAY! LIES!!!
MISLEADING MUCH?
SOMEONE'S BAD INFLUENCE!
. . . . !!
I'VE SAID THIS TO YOU BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?
SKILLS COME FIRST! WHEN YOU HAVE SKILLS, YOU GAIN CONFIDENCE AND CAN EVEN CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS!
THAT THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW FAR YOU CAN GET ON EMOTIONS ALONE!
IDEALS AND FEELINGS ARE FOR THE WEAK TO JUSTIFY THEIR WEAKNESS!
How profound for a high school kid..

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, THOUGH. SINCE YOU'RE PAIRED UP WITH ME, YOU'LL GET GOOD EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
. . . .
WELL, NARUMIYA-KUN MENTORING A KOUHAI CERTAINLY IS A FRESH SIGHT
IS MENTORING THE RIGHT WORD, HERE, THOUGH?
WHAT A PAIN IN THE NECK YOU ARE, YOU BONEHEAD!
YESSIR!!!
BUT I WILL STILL CONTINUE TO HOLD ON TO MY PRIDE AND SELF-AWEARENESS AS A CATCHER!

MAKING THE VERY BEST OF THE ONLY CHANCE AND TAKING 3 RUNS AT ONCE FROM MUKAI...
BUT WHAT'S EVEN MORE SURPRISING IS THAT SEIDOU'S PITCHERS WERE ABLE TO KEEP TEITOU'S LINEUP SUPRESSED, GIVING UP AS FEW AS 2 RUNS...
ALTHOUGH HE WAS TAKEN OFF THE MOUND MIDWAY DUE TO THE RAIN,
FURUYA'S PITCHING BEFORE THAT POINT WAS DIVINE, FROM WHAT I HEARD.
SEIDOU'S PITCHER SQUAD, COMPLETE WITH KAWAKAMI AND SAWAMURA, HAS PROVEN TO BE FORMIDABLE INDEED
ALTHOUGH THEIR BATTING LINEUP ISN'T AS STRONG AS THE PREVIOUS TEAM'S,
IN A SENSE, THEY MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT OPPONENTS THAN THEY WERE IN THE SUMMER...

EH?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT WE CAN AFFORD TO BE WORRYING ABOUT A TEAM WE'RE NOT YET UP AGAINST?
BEFORE THAT, FIRST, WE HAVE TO DEFEAT OUR IMMEDIATE OPPONENTS, UGUMORI.
IF WE FAIL, THIS IS WHERE IT WILL END FOR US.

AFTER THE SUMMER, THIS TIGHT SOLEMN EXPRESSION
——HAS BEEN APPEARING ON COACH KUNITOMO'S FACE WITH THE EVER INCREASING REGULARITY...
TH-THAT'S RIGHT... ONE CERTAIN WIN AT A TIME...! FORGIVE ME, I WAS OUT OF LINE!
GLANCE
GLANCE

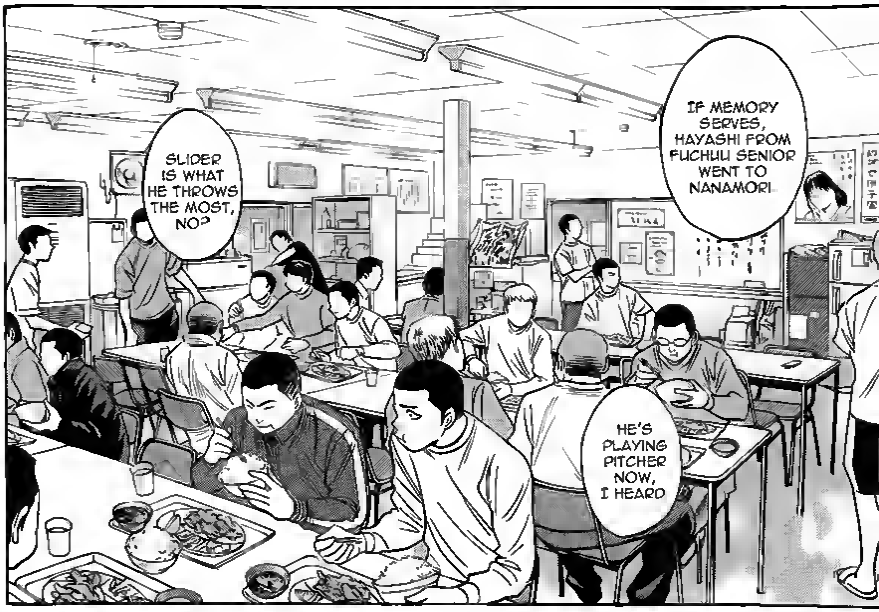
THAT DEMONIC START NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.
HOW CAN HE TAKE OFF WITHOUT ANY HESITATION, ANYWAY?
He got me!!!
WHAT FAST LEGS. THEY CERTAINLY CAN BE PUT TO A GOOD USE.
HE SAID HE WATCHES NOT ONLY A PITCHER'S FEET BUT ALSO HIS WHOLE BODY IN ITS ENTIRETY.
AND IF THE PITCHER IS RIGHT-HANDED, HE CAN FEEL HIS MOTION WITH HIS BACK.
WHOOOA---- THAT'S WAY TOO HIGH LEVEL! WE CAN'T COPY THAT!

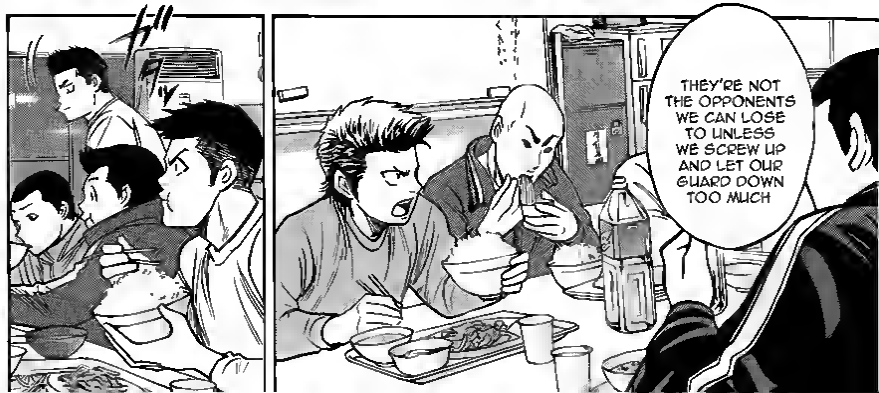
HIS BATTING EYE IS ALSO DECENT. IF WE CAN BOOST HIS ON-BASE PERCENTAGE...
LEGS AREN'T SOMETHING THAT'S PRONE TO SLUMPS, AFTER ALL.
AFTER KURAMOCHI'S TURN OUR ATTACK PATTERN CHANGES GREATLY DEPENDING ON WHETHER HE GETS ON BASE OR NOT.
WAHA-HAHA!
YOU FELL FOR IT!

PRACTICING STEALING BASE AGAINST THE LEFTY SAWAMURA-KUN
Hey, hey! You're making a very evil face there.
GETTING PWNED BY THE RESIDENT MORON SAWAMURA, MUST BE DOUBLY PAINFUL!
Shhh
YOU BLINDLY TAKE YOUR CHANCES TOO OFTEN, HIGASA!
BOTH IN BASE RUNNING AND IN DEFENSE
SAWAMURA'S GETTING BETTER AT PICKING OFF RUNNERS IS ALSO TO BLAME THOUGH!
WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY TWO BACK-TO-BACK GAMES ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.
AND THIS TRAINING IS A PREPARATION MADE WITH NARUMIYA-KUN IN MIND.
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU DON'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO THROW TO HOME PLATE!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA BE JUST STANDING THERE?
NO RUNNER WILL RUN ON MY WATCH!!!
WAHAHA! HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS, HARUCCHI ~~~~?!
CAN'T RUN, CAN YOU!

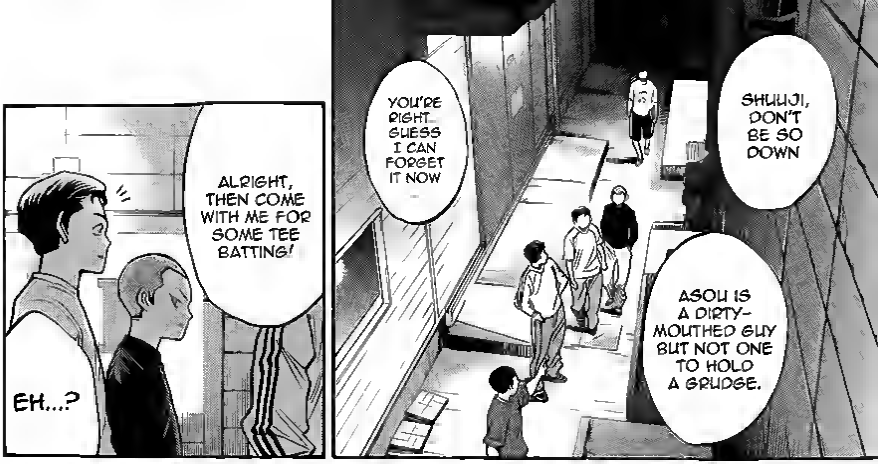
AH.
WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU'RE TAGGING ME?!
WE'RE JUST PRACTICING, DAMMIT! NO NEED TO BE SO DAMN DESPERATE TO TAG ME OUT!!!
OW!!!
IT HURTS, DAMN YOU!!!
...SORRY.
YOU OK?
Am not!
WHAT THE HECK'S WITH THAT WIMP.
IF YOU GOT HURT, IT WAS YOUR OWN FAULT BECAUSE YOU WERE SLIDING TOO CLOSE

Want to get stronger?
強くなりたければ
Eat 3 or more bowls!
3杯以上

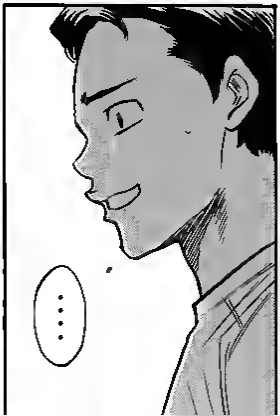

SLIDER IS WHAT HE THROWS THE MOST, NO?
IF MEMORY SERVES, HAYASHI FROM FUCHUU SENIOR WENT TO NANAMORI
HE'S PLAYING PITCHER NOW, I HEARD

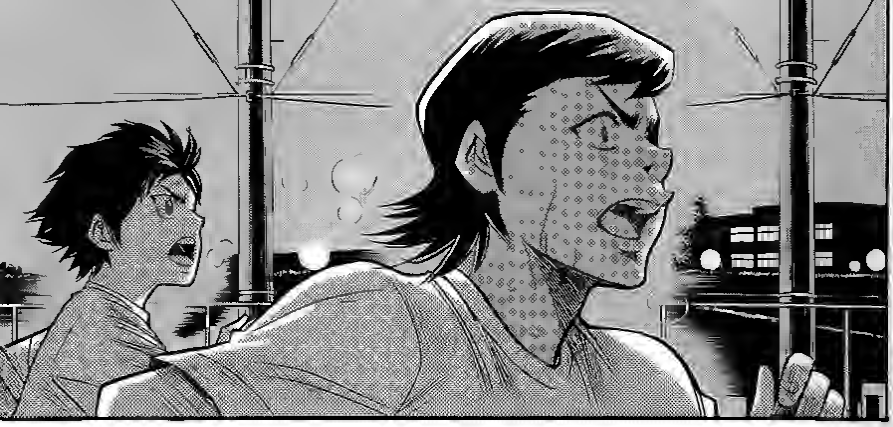

THEY'RE NOT THE OPPONENTS WE CAN LOSE TO UNLESS WE SCREW UP AND LET OUR GUARD DOWN TOO MUCH

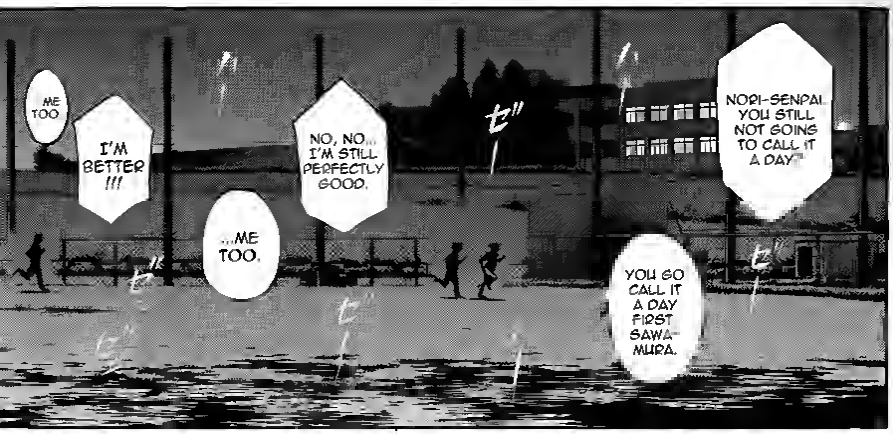
IF COACH FINDS OUT, YOU'LL GET CHEWED OUT!
MN, YEAH MY STOMACH ISN'T FEELING WELL TODAY, SO...
KUDOU.
...
HUH? YOU'RE FINISHED EATING ALREADY, KUDOU?
LOOK HERE! THE RESULTS OF THE SECRET TRAINING METHODS MIYAUCHI-SENPAI PASSED DOWN ON ME!
ぼっこり
JERSEY NUMBER 14 INFIELDER
YAMAGUCHI KEN
(2ND YEAR)
WHOA! WHEN DID IT ...?!
IF YOU DON'T FORCE YOURSELF AND EAT EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOUR BODY WON'T GET BIGGER.
FUFUFUFU


ALRIGHT, THEN COME WITH ME FOR SOME TEE BATTING!
EH...?
YOU'RE RIGHT... GUESS I CAN FORGET IT NOW
SHUUJI, DON'T BE SO DOWN
ASOU IS A DIRTY-MOUTHED GUY BUT NOT ONE TO HOLD A GRUDGE.

YOU WANNA DO SOME HITTING, TOO, RIGHT?
LET'S BUILD UP SOME STRENGTH AND GET BACK AT ASOU.
JERSEY NUMBER 16 ~ 2ND BASEMAN
KIJIMA REI
2ND YEAR


...



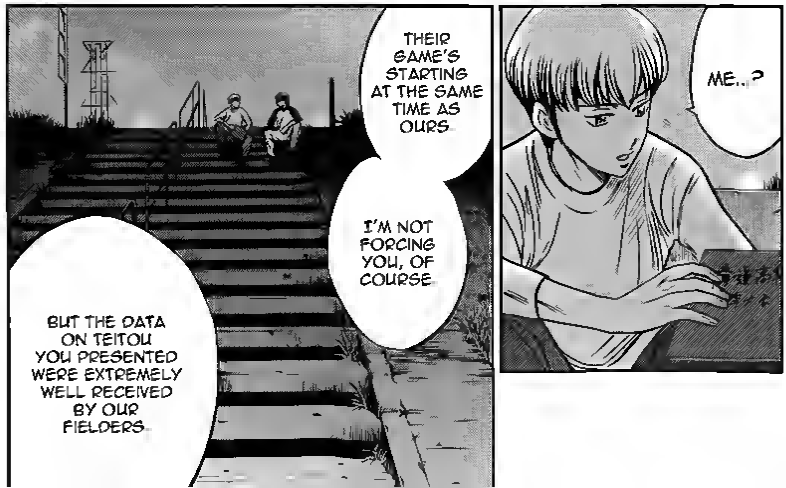

NOPI-SENPAI, YOU STILL NOT GOING TO CALL IT A DAY?
YOU GO CALL IT A DAY FIRST SAWAMURA.
NO, NO... I'M STILL PERFECTLY GOOD.
...ME TOO.
I'M BETTER !!!
ME TOO.

UWAAH! FURUYA REVIVED AND IS BACK!
GO REST IN PEACE ALREADY, FURUYA-NATOR!

N-NORI-SAN, YOU'RE AWFULLY PALE!
. . . .
日本史
Grammar Syntax
WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THOSE REFERENCE BOOKS?
THINKING ABOUT ENTRANCE EXAMS ALREADY?

CHAPTER 260
BACK OR FORWARD?

Here
EH?
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO GO TO THE INAJITSU VS UGUMORI MATCH AND SCOUT THEM OUT...
BASEBALL
Seidou High School
Full season tournament


THEIR GAME'S STARTING AT THE SAME TIME AS OURS
I'M NOT FORCING YOU, OF COURSE
BUT THE DATA ON TEITOU YOU PRESENTED WERE EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED BY OUR FIELDERS
ME..?

YOU'D BE ABLE TO GET EVEN BETTER DATA IF YOU WERE PRESENT IN PERSON AT THE GAME.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
青道高校
Seidou High School
SCORE BOOK
BASEBALL
秋季大会
BY THE WAY, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME?
I MEAN, BACK IN THE CLASS-ROOM .
EH..?

I, UH... I'M DOING SOMETHING I'M NOT USED TO HERE, TOO, YOU KNOW, SO...
AH... I SEE...
AH, NO, NOTHING MUCH...
IF IT'S NOTHING MUCH, THEN COME ON, JUST SAY IT.
I CAN STILL RUN SOME MORE!
I GET IT ALREADY! BUT WE'RE CALLING IT A DAY NOW!
WE'RE WASHING OURSELVES PROPERLY !!!
AND WE USE THE BATH TUB, TOO!!!
HOW RUDE OF YOU!
YOU'RE CONTENT WITH JUST A QUICK BATH LIKE A CROW!
THEY TEND TO MAKE DO WITH JUST A QUICK SHOWER IF NOT CHECKED
NOR! ESCORT THESE TWO TO THE BATH HOUSE AND MAKE SURE THEY WASH PROPERLY!
GOTCHA!

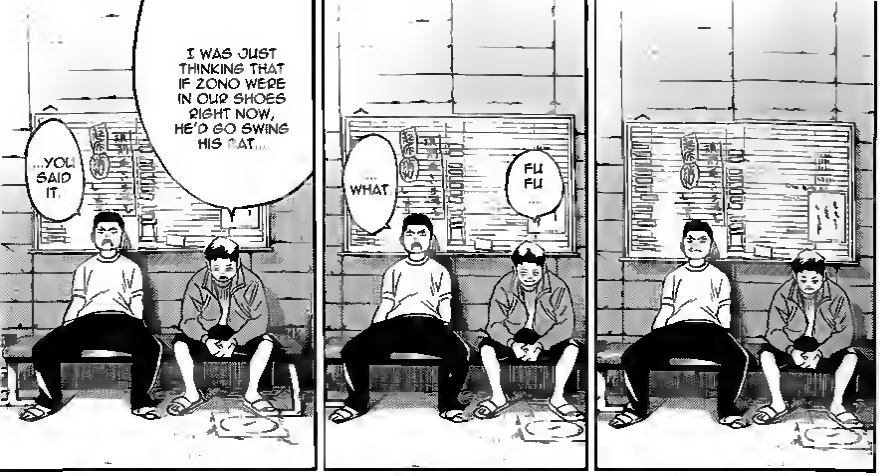
THEY'RE, LIKE, FROM A DIFFERENT SPECIES...
Crows are much better off than birds that get put into a cage and forget how to fly eventually!
They're total crows!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A CROW, ANYWAY?!
AT THIS STAGE, IT'S LIKE YOU CAN FEEL THE... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT... THE DIFFERENCE IN THE FRAME OF MIND, PERHAPS...
IN COMPARISON, WE'RE, LIKE... JUST ORDINARY CLUB MEMBERS, I GUESS...?
AH, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE HERE JUST TO ADMIRE FROM AFAR, EITHER.
WE KNEW THAT THE THREE YEARS HERE WOULD BE DIFFICULT, AND WE WERE PREPARED FOR IT... BUT IT'S JUST THAT, SOME-HOW...

BY THAT, YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO QUIT THE TEAM?
..AH.
...NO...
THEN WHAT'S WITH THESE REFERENCE BOOKS.?
NABE, IF BEING ON THE TEAM PAINS YOU DEEP DOWN
AND YOU WANT TO DEVOTE YOURSELF TO STUDIES INSTEAD, I WON'T STOP YOU.

I CAN'T STOP SOMEONE
AH... NO...
WHO SAYS HE WANTS TO QUIT OF HIS OWN WILL.
WE PLAY BASEBALL NOT BECAUSE SOMEONE TOLD US TO.

WE MADE THIS CHOICE OURSELVES.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT'S NOT...
AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT'S HOW I PLAY BASEBALL.

ガチャ
HUH? KUDOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AH, I JUST.. COULDN'T SLEEP, IS ALL.
YOU, TOO, HUH


I WAS JUST THINKING THAT IF ZONO WERE IN OUR SHOES RIGHT NOW, HE'D GO SWING HIS BAT...
...YOU SAID IT.
WHAT
FU FU

今日学べ
Learn today
今やれ すぐやれ
Do it now right now

NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT THE LIGHTS ARE REALLY STILL ON IN THE INDOOR TRAINING FACILITY!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S ACTUALLY ZONO!
IS HE REALLY STILL PRACTICING THIS LATE?!

I'LL THROW AN INSIDE ONE TO HIM NEXT
AFTER I CORNER THE HITTER WITH 2 OUTSIDE PITCHES..
IT'S OK EVEN IF IT'S A BALL.
WE'LL BE IN LUCK IF HE SWINGS ON IT!
OISHO

NO ONE CAN BEAT HIM IN THIS.
S-SAWA-MURA...
SAWAMURA IS ALWAYS THE LAST ONE TO LEAVE.
...I SERIOUSLY RESPECT 'IM.
FIRST, I'LL FEIGN
THROW-ING TO THE OUTSIDE
BUT GO WITH THE INSIDE!
OKAY! WITH THIS, THE BATTER WON'T BE ABLE TO NARROW DOWN HIS AIM!

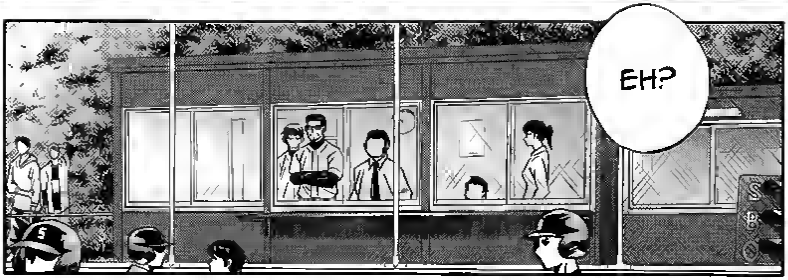
DESPITE A MONSTER LIKE FURUYA BEING RIGHT NEXT TO HIM,
HE DOESN'T GIVE UP ON BECOMING THE ACE
OR GROWING AS A PITCHER.
ZONO-SENPAI RECOGNIZED EIJUN-KUN'S EFFORTS AND HAS BEEN GIVING HIM DUE RESPECT FOR A WHILE NOW.
HIS PITCHING IN THE GAME AGAINST TEITOU ENCOURAGED ME IN A BIG WAY.
....

JUST 10 MORE BALLS...
I HEAR THOSE INCIDENTS GET REPORTED TO THE COACH, YOU KNOW.
SAWAMURA! YOU REALLY SHOULD GO TO BED ALREADY!
AH... RIGHT!
OR YOU'LL FALL ASLEEP IN CLASS AGAIN!
OR A STEP BACK?
HAVE I TAKEN A STEP FORWARD?
SINCE THAT DAY...
TO KNOW FOR SURE, I'LL NEED TO---

青道

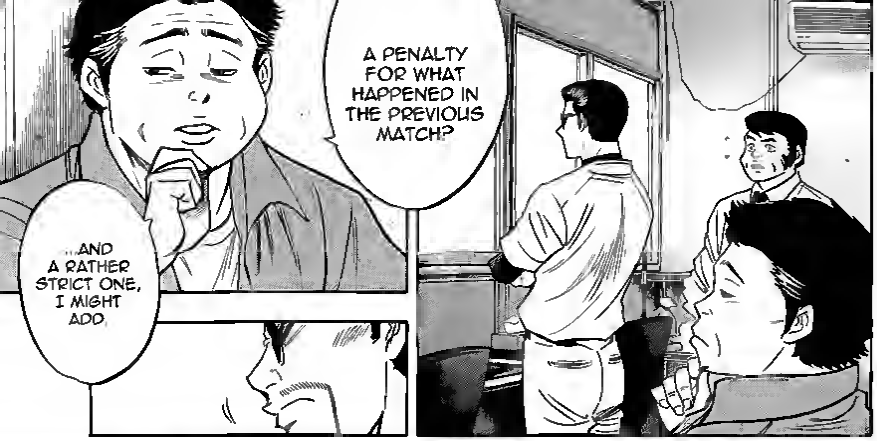
F-
FURUYA! STOP IT!
YOU'LL PUT A HOLE IN THE CEILING AGAIN!!!
2ND FLOOR

OCTOBER, 8
DAY BEFORE THE MATCH

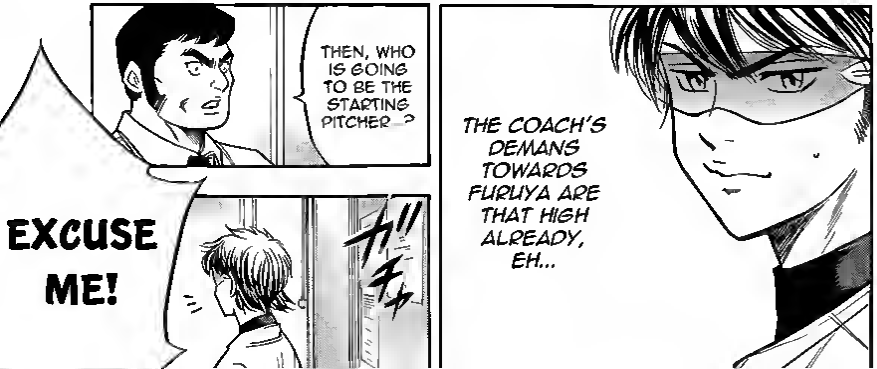

EH?

...I'LL HAVE HIM READY TO TAKE THE MOUND AT ANY MOMENT,
BUT IF I SEE EVEN A HINT OF NEGLIGENCE IN HIS PLAYS, I'LL BENCH HIM THE SAME INSTANCE.

YOU'RE MOVING FURUYA TO LEFT FIELD FOR THE NEXT MATCH?
YEAH.


A PENALTY FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PREVIOUS MATCH?
...AND A RATHER STRICT ONE, I MIGHT ADD.

HE CAN STILL ACT AS THE ACE EVEN WHEN IN LEFT FIELD,
AND ALL HIS TEAMMATES WILL SEE IT.


THEN, WHO IS GOING TO BE THE STARTING PITCHER...?
EXCUSE ME!
THE COACH'S DEMANS TOWARDS FURUYA ARE THAT HIGH ALREADY, EH...

M-MAY I INQUIRE AS TO WHAT I CAN BE OF HELP WITH TODAY?
UNWORTHY SAWAMURA HAS ARRIVED AS PER REQUESTED!
IF IT IS ABOUT ME SHAMEFULLY FALLING ASLEEP IN CLASS THE OTHER DAY, I HAVE FULLY REALIZED MY MISCONDUCT AND AM DEEPLY REGRETTING THAT UNFORTUNATE HAPPENSTANCE!
C-COACH KATAOKA... YOU DON'T MEAN...
It's not about that?!
EH?!
...I SEE.

CHAPTER 261
YOU'VE THROWN IT

T/N THE SONG IS THE HYMN OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Date October, 9 Japan High School Baseball
Fall Tournament 2nd round 2 match(es)

	1st base side	3rd base side
10 00	Tourokushou —	Tamahiro Ichi
12 30	Seidon —	Nanamori Academy
	—	—

Edogawa Stadium
Tokyo High School Baseball Selection

SO THAT MONSTER IS PLAYING LEFT FIELD TODAY...
THEY CHANGED THEIR BATTING ORDER COMPLETELY COMPARED TO THE FIRST ROUND...
THEY WANT TO TRY OUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS ANTICIPATING TO FACE INAJITSU NEXT, I SUPPOSE
...HMPH. I SEE.
WRITING: LOVE FOR BASEBALL
THEY CONSIDER US SECOND RATE AND LOOK DOWN ON US, HUH.
GRIN
NANAMORI ACADEMY HEAD COACH
HARA TATSUOMI
S-SAYING IT WITH SUCH DELIGHT WON'T CHANGE THE SADNESS OF IT.
BRING IT!!!

2ND BATTER - RIGHT FIELDER
SHIRASU KENJIROU
(2ND YEAR)
1ST BATTER - SHORTSTOP
KURAMOCHI YOUICHI
(2ND YEAR)
3RD BATTER - 2ND BASEMAN
KOMINATO HARUICHI
(1ST YEAR)

IF YOU STRAIN TOO MUCH, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE YOUR SWING WORK, Y'KNOW!
S-SMILE
5TH BATTER - 1ST BASEMAN
MAEZONO KENTA
(2ND YEAR)
I'M A CLEANUP HITTER.
YOU SHOWED GOOD RESULTS, SO NOW STAND IN THE BATTER'S BOX WITH CONFIDENCE!

6TH BATTER LEFTFIELDER
FURUYA SATORU
(1ST YEAR)
FURUYA, YOU'LL TAKE YOUR POSITION BACK!
TAKE IT BACK WITH YOUR PLAYS!
S-SOMEHOW THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE IS... REALLY CONFLICTED.
IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION!!!
8TH BATTER 3RD BASEMAN
KANEMARU SHIN.II
(1ST YEAR)
GOTTA ADMIT I'M NERVOUS, JUST A LITTLE
7TH BATTER CENTER FIELDER
TOUJOU HIDEAKI
(1ST YEAR)
YOU FINALLY DID IT YOU'RE A STARTER FOR THE FIRST TIME
Nuh! I'll go with my natural voice!
Wanna use the megaphone?
THE FALLEN

OK!
YOUR PITCHES ARE GOOD!
4TH BATTER CATCHER
MIYUKI KAZUYA
(2ND YEAR)
FUH
YOU WANNA SUCK IN ALL THE AIR IN THE STADIUM OR WHAT...
9TH BATTER PITCHER
SAWAMURA EIJUN
(1ST YEAR)

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN GOOD SHAPE, SAWAMURA!
BUT HEY, DOING WELL IN THE BULLPEN MEANS NO SHIT IF YOU GO AND FALL APART IN A REAL GAME
WHAT, ARE YOU GETTING THE JITTERS, FOR ONCE?
WHAT A MEAN THING TO SAY JUST BEFORE THE GAME!
OF COURSE I AM!
I'M THE STARTING PITCHER FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THERE IS ALSO SOMETHING I WANT TO TRY—
HE'S BEEN USING HIS HEAD LATELY WHEN PRACTICING,
PAYING ATTENTION TO THE MIXTURE OF PITCHES AND STUFF, Y'KNOW
...

AFTER HAVING REALIZED THAT THE OUTSIDE CORNER PITCHES CAN BE A WEAPON,
HIS TAKE ON THE INSIDE CORNER PITCHES HAS CHANGED AS WELL...
ALRIGHTY, HAVE AT ME!
I'M GONNA CHECK OUT THE COURSE OF YOUR PITCHES FOR MYSELF FROM THE BATTER'S BOX!
WELL, IN SAWAMURA'S CASE, IT WASN'T THROUGH SENSE AND REASON BUT THROUGH SENSATIONS, FROM WHAT I GATHER

HOW TYPICAL OF SAWAMURA...
NOT UNDERSTANDING UNLESS HE FEELS IT FIRST HAND, HUH...
OKAY!!!
UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, ALL HE COULD DO WAS ATTACK THE INSIDE CORNER FOR ALL HE'S WORTH, BUT
BROADENING HIS REPERTOIRE THROUGH THE ADDITION OF OUTSIDE CORNER PITCHES WILL GIVE HIS PITCHING FREEDOM HE NEVER HAD BEFORE
AND NOW THAT HE HAS GAINED CONFIDENCE IN THE OUTSIDE PITCHES,
WHAT I WANT FOR HIM NEXT IS --

18

WA HA HA HA!
YOU FELL FOR IT, KURAMOCHI-SENPAI!
FOR MY TRICK!
AFTER THE COURSE OF THIS PITCH IS BURNED INTO YOUR EYES,
THE FINISHING OUTSIDE PITCH WILL FEEL SO MUCH FARTHER TO YOU!!!
GROUNDWORK! SEEDS-SOWING! AND THE SETUP FOR THE FINISH-ING OUTSIDE THROW IS COMPLETE!
FUHAHAHA!
ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR ME TO DO IS
TO CALMY - PWHOOSH! - TO THE OUTSIDE!

EH?
UM, SAWA-MURA...
YOU'VE THROWN IT.
YOU'VE THROWN IT JUST NOW!
THE INSIDE PITCH.
EH?

MEANWHILE...
SIGN: OODA STADIUM
OK! NOT BAD!

SHUT. HIM. OUT. BY. FORCE!
YOU HAVE HIM CORNERED. NO NEED FOR FEINTS OR BALLS NOW!
HEY-HE--Y
STUPID ACE?!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT EVERYBODY CAN DO THE SAME THINGS YOU CAN
LEFT FIELDERS SHOULD SHUT UP!
OKAY! THIRD BASE!!!
HIRANO !!!
JUST IGNORE THAT OUTFIEL-DER,

A SUPERB START BY HIRANO, THE STARTING PITCHER FOR INAJITSU, AGAINST 3 BATTERS FACED!
SO FAR SO GOOD!
3 OUTS! CHANGE!
THE BATTERS COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THE TIMING FOR HIS FASTBALLS!
PUSH 'EM BACK! PUSH 'EM BACK WITH FASBALLS!
YOUR SLIDER IS BREAKING ESPECIALLY WELL TODAY, SO LET'S CENTER OUR DEFENSE AROUND IT--
NICE THROWS, HIRANO-SAN
GEEZ... I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF THEY'RE A GOOD MATCH AS A BATTERY OR A BAD ONE..
PLEASE STOP BEING SO PIGEYISH JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT THE STARTING PITCHER!
WHAT?! GONNA IGNORE ME, IS THAT IT?!
HUH..? RIGHT NOW, IT'S NOT YOU WHO I'M PAIRED UP WITH AS A BATTERY!
YOU'RE ASKING FOR WAY TOO MANY BREAKING BALLS!
YOU'RE MAKING HIM WASTE PITCHES!

I CAN GIVE MY EVERYTHING FOR AS LONG AS I CAN WITHOUT ANY WORRIES!
WELL, ACTUALLY, KNOWING THAT MEI HAS MY BACK
IS REALLY REASSURING
INASHIRO JITSUGYOU PITCHER
HIRANO KEIJI
(2ND YEAR)
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL BASHFUL ON US FOR?!
JUST WHO THE ACE HERE IS
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE WELL AWARE

THEY DO HAVE ALL THE BASES COVERED, EH...
I RUN UP FOR THEM ALREADY.
BOTTOM OF THE FIRST, AND INAJITSU TAKES THE INITIATIVE!
YAY!
NOTHING LESS FROM THE MAIN CONTENDER FOR THE TICKET TO THE SENBATSU.

WE KNEW IT ALRIGHT, BUT INA-JITSU'RE REAL BEASTS!
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP 1 RUN TO THEM!
THAT HIT WASN'T AS LONG AS I EXPECTED.
DID THE BALL MISS THE SWEET SPOT OF THE BAT, I WONDER...?
DON'T EVEN DREAM THAT WE'LL STOP AT 1 RUN.
WE'LL PRESS ON ALL AT ONCE AND TAKE MANY MORE SO THAT HIRANOCCHI CAN PITCH WITH EASY HEART.

CHAPTER 262
BIG INNING

F-Fresh...

T/N: A PLAY ON WORDS "REALIABLE" SOUNDS LIKE "KENJITSU" AND SHIRASU'S NAME IS "KENJIROU".

A HIT TO CENTER FIELD!
THE THIRD BATTER KOMINATO SEIZES THE INITIATIVE WITH HIS RBI!
TOKYO
HE KEEPS PRODUCING RESULTS WHEN IT COUNTS, EH...
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
THE ADVICE I GAVE YOU IN THE MORNING CAME IN HANDY, HUH!
THAT'S OUR LUCKY BOY FOR YOU!

Ohh, he finally realized that he needs to be connecting the lines!
ANOTHER HIT TO CENTER FIELD!
THE FOURTH BATTER CREATES A CHANCE FOR HIS TEAM IN THE SITUATION WITH 1 OUT AND RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND.
THAT'S RIGHT...
FUH
BATTING FIFTH, FIRST BASEMAN, MAEZONO-KUN.
BATTING THIRD OR BATTING FIFTH
BATTING ORDER DOESN'T MATTER

SWING WITH MY OWN SWING IS ALL!!!
I'LL JUST

IT DROPS NEAR THE LEFT FOUL LINE!!!
THE SECOND BASE RUNNER COMES HOME! A SECOND RUN FOR SEIDOU!!!
A TWO BASE RBI FOR THE FIFTH BATTER, MAEZONO!!!
ALRR
RRRIGHT!
HE'S BEEN A STRONG PULL HITTER FROM THE START..
BUT NOW THAT HE LEARNED TO WAIT ON THE BALL, THAT COURSE WON'T RESULT IN A FOUL ANYMORE.
HE PERFECTLY REPRODUCED THE NEAR-THE-LINE HIT FROM OUR FIRST ROUND GAME!
IT HAS ALL THE CHANCES TO BECOME HIS SIGNATURE HIT!
AND GO~~O

AN INSIDE CORNER SPECIALIST.
Th- This guy's so passionate!
七森学園
青道
HIS TALENT AS ONE HAS FINALLY STARTED TO BLOOM, IT SEEMS.
IF SO, THEN IT'S YOUR ACHIEVEMENT AS A COACH, GAINED THROUGH BEING PATIENT WITH MAEZONO AND GIVING HIM CHANCES AGAIN AND AGAIN.
NO
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO BE SURE OF ANYTHING
THE SIXTH BATTER, FURUYA, STRAINS TOO MUCH AND POPS A FLY RIGHT INTO THE CATCHER'S HANDS!

BALL FOUR!
THE SEVENTH BATTER, TOUJOU SAW THROUGH IT AND DID NOT SWING!
2 OUTS, BASES LOADED!
I'VE SET UP A STAGE FOR YOU, SHINJI.
AND IN THE BATTER'S BOX NOW STANDS KANEMARU-KUN, WHO IS ON THE STARTING LINEUP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT!

THE FIRST PITCH AFTER 4 BALLS ...
GO FOR IT!

ALL THE RUNNERS
COME HOME ONE AFTER ANOTHER!

THE VERY FIRST INNING TURNS OUT TO BE A BIG ONE!!!
KANEMARU SHINJI'S FIRST APPEARANCE AS A STARTER IN THE TOURNAMENT!
WITH HIS FIRST AGGRESSIVE DOUBLE HIT BRINGING ALL THE RUNNERS HOME IN ONE SWOOP!
HIS FIRST TIME ON THE STARTING LINEUP. HIS VERY FIRST HIT AND HIS VERY FIRST RBI. BUT HE'S NOT LEAPING WITH JOY?
See!
DOES THAT MEAN HITTING BIG IS BUSINESS AS USUAL TO HIM...?
HOW CREEPY!
I know how you feel.
I'M SO AWESOME!
WAY TOO COOL FOR MY OWN GOOD!
I think I'm gonna cum
FEELS SO GOOD!
YAHOO!

WA HA HA HA!
NICE BATTING, KANE-MARU!!!
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES! NOT A TRACE LEFT FROM THEIR INABILITY TO SCORE ANYMORE!
TOO EARLY TO TELL
CHANGES TO THEIR BATTING ORDER WERE A BIG SUCCESS, I GUESS?
.....!!
WILL FOLLOW SUIT, AND...
I, TOO,
TH-THIS GUY...
AS IF NOTHING EVEN HAPPENED...
3 OUTS, CHANGE!

SAWA-MURA!
OUR TURN ON DEFENSE IN THE BOTTOM WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT!
IF WE DON'T DEFEND FLAWLESSLY, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE INITIATIVE IS WITH US.
SO FORGET THAT WE TOOK 5 RUNS.
UNDER-STOOD! I SHALL IF NEED BE!
ALSO, ABOUT INSIDE PITCHES.
I'M NOT DEMANDING OF YOU TO UP AND THROW ONE AT A DECISIVE MOMENT,
BUT I'LL STILL ASK FOR AN INSIDE PITCH IN THE COURSE OF THIS GAME, SO BE READY.

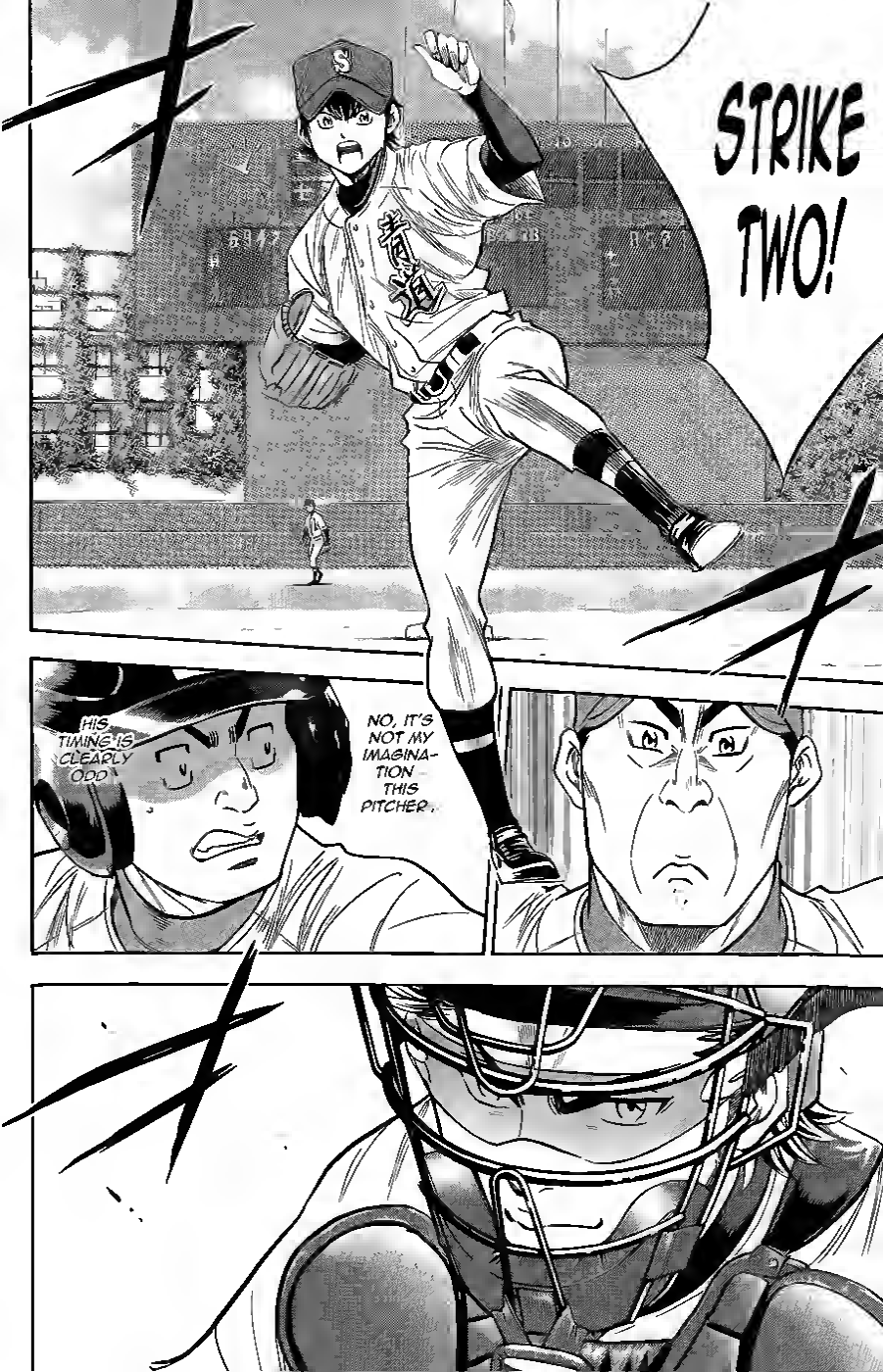
IT'S ONLY THE FIRST INNING, AND WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES TO STAGE A COME-BACK!
IT'S NOT OVER YET!
SO ATTACK CALMLY AND CARE-FULLY!
THIS SMALL HILL...
...HARDLY TRODDEN ON YET...
BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF MAN!

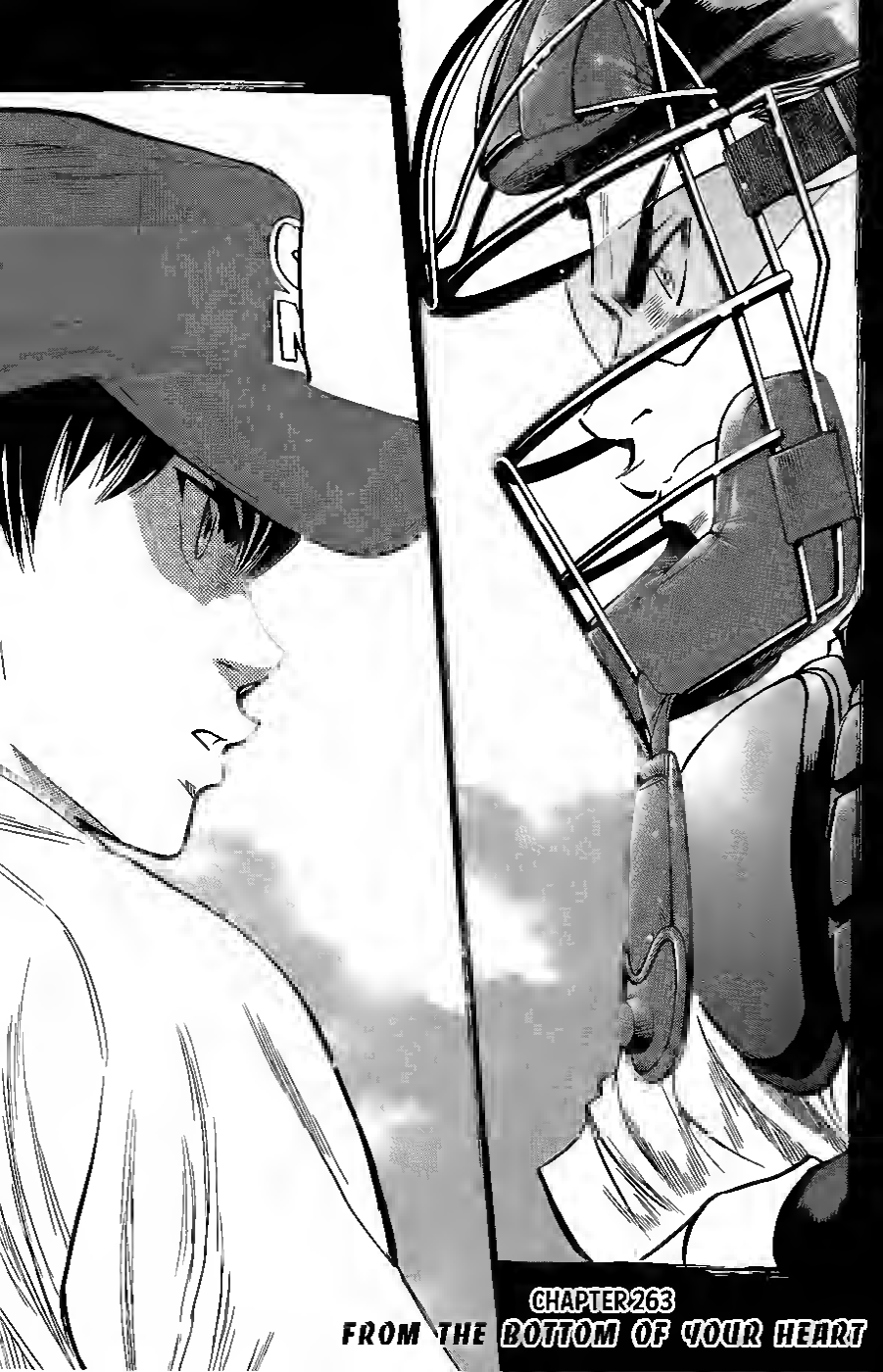
THIS IS THE MOUND
OF THE STARTING PITCHER ...!

IT WILL BE TOO LATE WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS !
1
DOES FUJIYA THE BASTARD ALWAYS STAND ON IT EXPERIENCING THIS FEELING?

YOU GOT IT!
He didn't forget about us Attaboy!
SO EVERYBODY IN THE FIELD, PLEASE LEND ME YOUR HELP!!!
BALLS WILL COME FLYING TO YOU,
3
AND YOU CAN DO IT NOW, RIGHT?
YOU COULD THROW IT IN THE BULLPEN...
GUTS!
SHOW YOUR GUTS!
ATTACK!
18

HERE GOES! NICE THROW!
STRIKE!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN GOOD SHAPE!
...
H-HUH...?
SOME-HOW...


STRIKE TWO!
HIS TIMING IS CLEARLY ODD
NO, IT'S NOT MY IMAGINATION – THIS PITCHER.



CHAPTER 263
FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART

THE THIRD PITCH MISSES BY A LITTLE, BALL, THE COUNT IS 2-1.
UGH...
THIS GUY'S TEMPO SURE IS FAST...

ANOTHER PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE!
THE BATTER BARELY TIPS IT WITH HIS BAT, FOUL!
FOCUSING ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE, AS USUAL...
NOT THAT HE CAN DO ANYTHING ELSE THOUGH
FALLING INTO THE OPPONENTS' RHYTHM IS THE LAST THING YOU SHOULD DO WHEN STANDING IN THE BATTER'S BOX!
I HAVE TO WONDER HOW LONG THAT'S GOING TO KEEP WORKING...
...

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU...
THE GROUNDWORK NECESSARY FOR FINISHING HIM OFF WITH AN OUTSIDE PITCH...
THEN DON'T DWELL ON IT TOO MUCH AND SIMPLY THROW IT HERE!!!
ASKING FOR THE INSIDE JUST LIKE THAT, OUTTA THE BLUE!
THAT MIYUKI...
IT AIN'T NOTHING SPECIAL.
ドクン

GET 'IM, SAWAMURA!
IT'S OK EVEN IF IT'S A BALL...
WE'LL BE IN LUCK
IF HE SWINGS ON IT.

!!
ドスッ
DEAD BALL!
A SUDDEN DEADBALL AGAINST THE LEADOFF HITTER THE PITCHER ALMOST CORNERED!
……

IS HE BEING TOO ON EDGE FACING HIS VERY FIRST BATTER OF THE GAME OR SOMETHING?
MY APOLOGIES!
JUST WHEN HE WAS GOING AT A GOOD TEMPO, TOO...
WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE START FOR HIM.
AHH~~~ WHAT A WASTE...
IT DID GO TO THE INSIDE.
BUT, JUST NOW...
IN A WAY, HE DID THROW IT ALRIGHT...
...I GUESS?
I screwed it up...
BATTING SECOND, NISHI-KUN.

EIJUN-KUN IS BEING TOO PERSISTENT WITH HIS PICKOFF ATTEMPTS!
What the runner isn't even trying to gain a good lead.
HERE!
Again?!
IF YOU'RE OBSESSING OVER THE RUNNER SO MUCH, YOU'LL...
FOCUS ON THE BATTER, SAWAMURA!!!
PING!

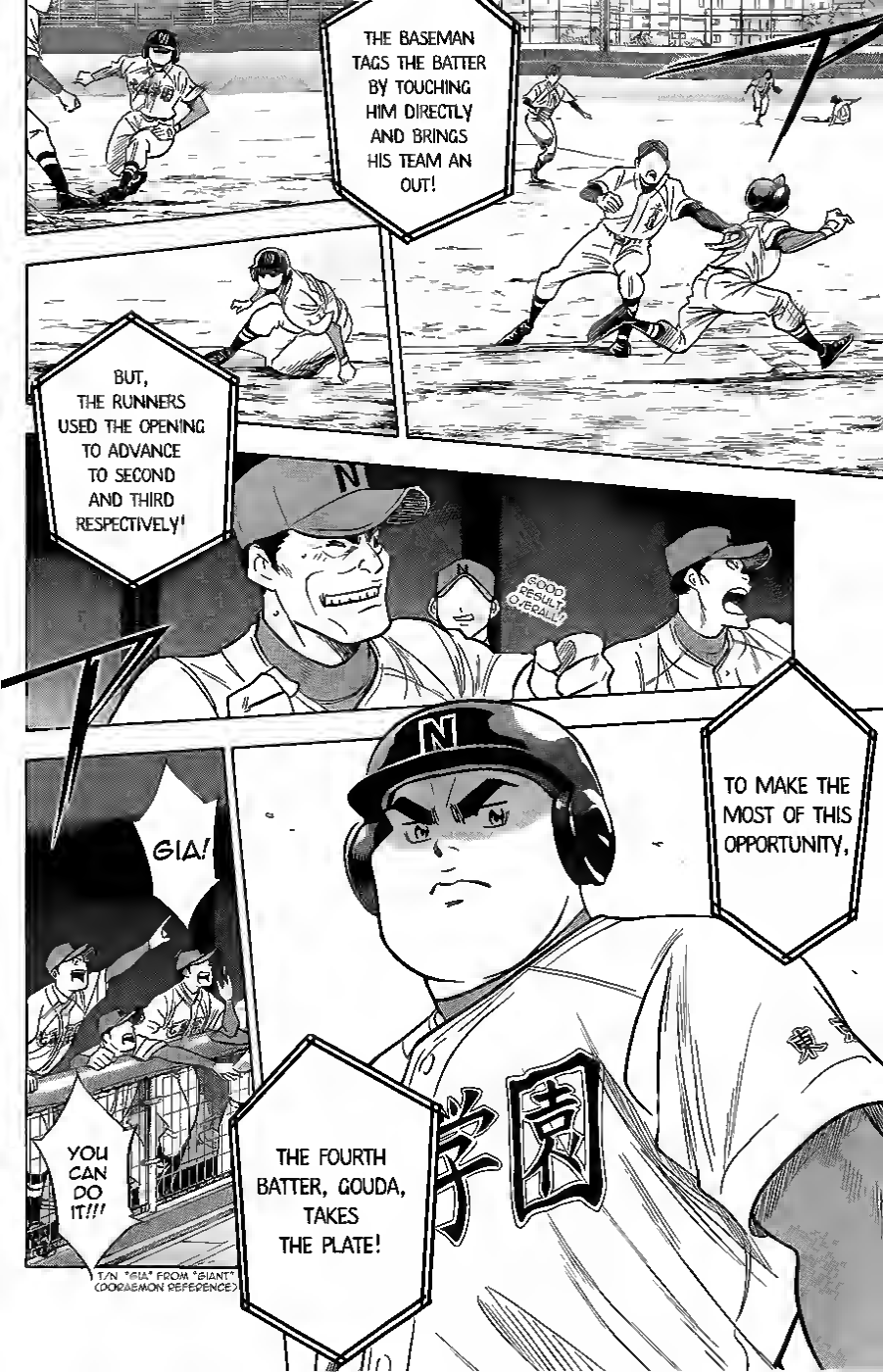
PUPHEEW
CALM THE HECK DOWN!
DON'T PUPHEEW ME!
SEE? I TOLD YOU!
BALL FOUR!

BEING 5 RUNS DOWN IS NOTHING!
IF WE TAKE BACK EVEN 1 RUN IN THIS INNING, WE'LL BE ABLE TO MOUNT A COME-BACK!!!
THEY DO HAPPEN! IN BASEBALL, THESE THINGS ARE NOT RARE!

IT STARTED WITH THAT DEAD-BALL...
TURNS OUT IT DID SHAKE HIM A GREAT DEAL, HUH?!
A DEADBALL FOLLOWED BY A WALK IN THE OPENER
No outs... Still no outs...
PUT THE STARTING PITCHER SAWAMURA IN A BIND!

FUH
DON'T PANICK ON ME, SAWAMURA. LET'S GET YOU BACK INTO SHAPE (WITH) AN OUTSIDE PITCH'
I THOUGHT THEY'D TRY TO CHASE 1 RUN BY ALL MEANS
NANAMORI AREN'T BUNTING...
OUR OPPONENT IS DOING US A FAVOR AND FALLING APART WITHOUT US DOING ANYTHING. NO WAY WE'D GIVE HIM EVEN A SINGLE EASY OUT IN THIS SITUATION!
森宇

CHOOSE A PITCH TO TARGET,
AND SO FOR IT!!!
AND... THE BALL'S SPEED DIES OUT...
Huh?
IT LANDS CLOSE TO THE FIRST BASEMAN'S POSITION!
A HIT OFF THE END OF THE BAT!


THE BASEMAN TAGS THE BATTER BY TOUCHING HIM DIRECTLY AND BRINGS HIS TEAM AN OUT!
BUT, THE RUNNERS USED THE OPENING TO ADVANCE TO SECOND AND THIRD RESPECTIVELY!
GOOD RESULT OVERALL!
TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY,
GIA!
YOU CAN DO IT!!!
THE FOURTH BATTER, GOUDA, TAKES THE PLATE!
T/N "GIA" FROM "GIANT" DORAEMON REFERENCE

TO NANAMORI, WHO ARE 5 RUNS BEHIND, THIS IS A HEAVEN-SENT CHANCE!
ON THE OTHER HAND, TO SAWAMURA, THE FIRST YEAR, STANDING ON THE MOUND FOR THE FIRST TIME AS THE STARTING PITCHER, THIS IS A BIND HE CREATED HIMSELF. CAN HE GET OUT OF IT UNSCATHED?!
AFTER THE DEADBALL, HE'S BEEN THROWING, ONLY TO THE OUTSIDE
FUH
SAWA-MURA, PITCH TO CONTACT!
COULD IT BE..
七子
THAT THIS PITCHER...
WE ALL ARE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

...IS LOATHE TO THROW TO THE INSIDE FOR SOME REASON...?
18
3

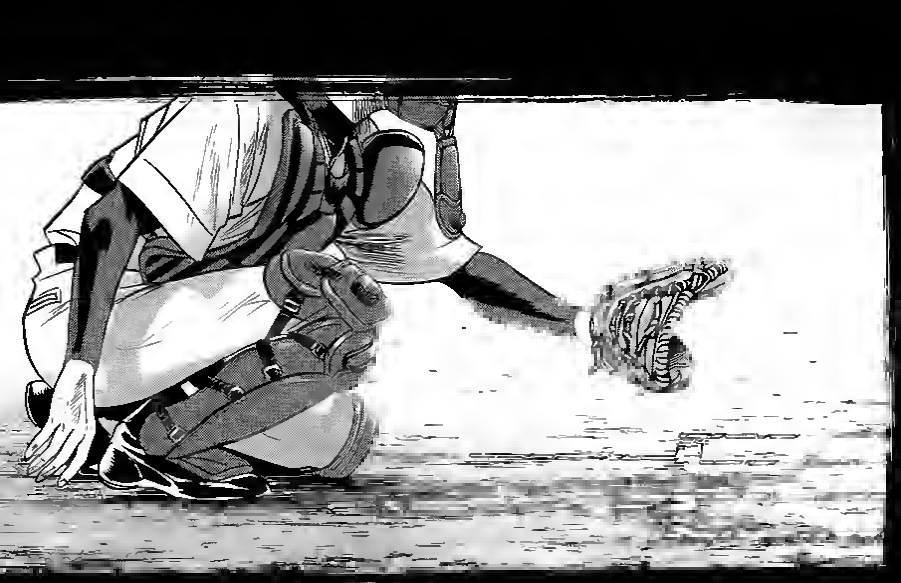
WHOA!
FOUL!
JUST BEHIND THE FOUL LINE!

I WAS LATE, WITH MY SWING?
S-SAWAMURA...
THAT WAS DANGEROUS!
IF IT WASN'T A FOUL, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A LONG HIT.
This is getting worse by the minute...
Y-YOUR EYES TURNED CAT-LIKE!
PUPHEW—
CALM DOWN!
THIS GUY... HE STEPPED FORWARD WITHOUT A SHRED OF HESITATION
SO HE GAVE UP ON THE INSIDE COMPLETELY, TARGETING ONLY THE OUTSIDE, HUH...

...BUT IS IT OK FOR ME TO ASK FOR AN INSIDE PITCH FROM SAWAMURA RIGHT NOW?
IT'S AT A TIME LIKE THIS THAT WE REALLY NEED TO ATTACK THE INSIDE
NOT TO LET THE BATTER NARROW DOWN HIS AIM.
PERSONALLY, I'D WANT TO ASK FOR IT, AND HAVE SAWAMURA OVERCOME THE YIPS, BUT
WE HAVE A SAFE LEAD IN RUNS, AND IT'S STILL ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME!
WITH THE OUTSIDE PITCHES HERE...
NO, WE PROBABLY SHOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT!

SAWA-MURA.
EIJUN-KUN
EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME NOTICED HOW THIS BATTER STEPPED TOWARDS THE OUTSIDE WITHOUT ANY HESITATION .
HE DOESN'T THINK THAT ANY INSIDE PITCHES WILL BE COMING ..
YOU...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO THROW
IT TO THE INSIDE, RIGHT?!



CHAPTER 264
FLOWER

T/N: THEY'RE SINGING "ORE WA GIANT-SAMA DA" FROM DORAEMON. SUBSTITUTING "GIANT" FOR "GIA" GOUDA'S NICKNAME (ORE WA GIANT. GAKI DAISHOU = I'M A GIANT. THE KIDS' BOSS)

FUH
THIS BATTER GAVE UP ON THE INSIDE...
FACED WITH A TIGHT INSIDE PITCH, HE'LL BE NATURALLY TAKEN ABACK.
SO COME AT HIM IN THE ZONE!

GIA PACKS ENOUGH POWER TO CARRY IT TO THE OUTFIELD.
RUNNERS, CONFIRM EACH FIELDER'S POSITION CAREFULLY.
18
8

THE SAME WAY I ALWAYS THROW...
smiley —
RELAX, RELAX.

I'M POSITIVE I WON'T LOSE TO HIM IN POWER...
RELAXING MY WHOLE BODY...
AND FOCUSING ALL THE NERVES TO ONE POINT...

TO THE FINGER-TIPS!!!

3
AGH...!
THIS PITCHER...
THREW FULLY INTENDING TO HIT ME...

!
STRIKE!
AFTER STEPPING FORWARD SO MUCH...
OF COURSE YOU'D BE TOTALLY FLOORED AT THIS PITCH
ACTUALLY, IT'D HAVE BEEN A FAIRLY EASY PITCH TO HIT FOR YOU IF ONLY YOU'D SWING FROM THE STANDARD POSITION.
NICE THROW, SAWA-MURA!
AND IT WASN'T MEANT TO EVEN BRUSH YOU, MUCH LESS HIT YOU!
BOTH THE HEIGHT OF THIS THROW AND ITS COURSE WERE PERFECTLY IN THE ZONE.

H-HE FINALLY DID IT...
HE THREW TO THE INSIDE.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN SURPRISE THOSE AROUND YOU LIKE THAT THAT YOU'RE STANDING THERE
THAT'S IT.
WAIT, WASN'T HE SUPPOSED TO HAVE...
YIPS? WHAT ABOUT HIS YIPS?
ATTACK FULL THROTTLE!
SAWA-MURA!
THE DUDE'S REALLY AWE-SOME
SO YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY, HUH!
THE FLABBERGASTED EXPRESSION ON THAT PEA BEAN-SHAPED BATTER'S FACE WAS PRICE-LESS
IT'S NOT JUST A STRIKE
WH-WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THEM?
YOU'RE GRINNING TOO MUCH, MORON
Heh heh
HOW COME THEY'RE SO HAPPY OVER JUST A STRIKE?

IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE HAPPY.
FIRST, WE GOTTA FINISH OFF THIS BATTER, THAT'S THE REAL PURPOSE OF THIS SETUP, NO?
GIA!
DON'T HESITATE! JUST SWING!
ARGH HE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO NARROW DOWN MY AIM.
SWINGING AT ANYTHING HE'LL THROW AND HOPING FOR THE BEST IS MY ONLY CHOICE NOW
END HIM, SAWAMURA!!!
GO FOR IT!!!
I CAN'T CONTAIN
THIS EXCITEMENT...
SO LOUD I CAN HEAR IT.
MY HEART IS BEATING LIKE CRAZY.

MY EMOTIONS ARE OVER-FLOWING...
AND THIS...
...IS WHAT I FEARED...
3

L-
LEFT FIELD !!!
AGH!
HE JAMMED ME AGAIN
He hiddd idd!

THE OUT-FIELDERS REMAIN ROUGHLY IN THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS ...!
THE THIRD BASE RUNNER TAGS UP!!!

B-BUT...! HE CAN'T CONTINUE TO THE HOME PLATE!
THE DEFENSE DOESN'T LET HIM!
A MISSILE-LIKE RETURN THROW FROM LEFT FIELD!
M-Misskmm...

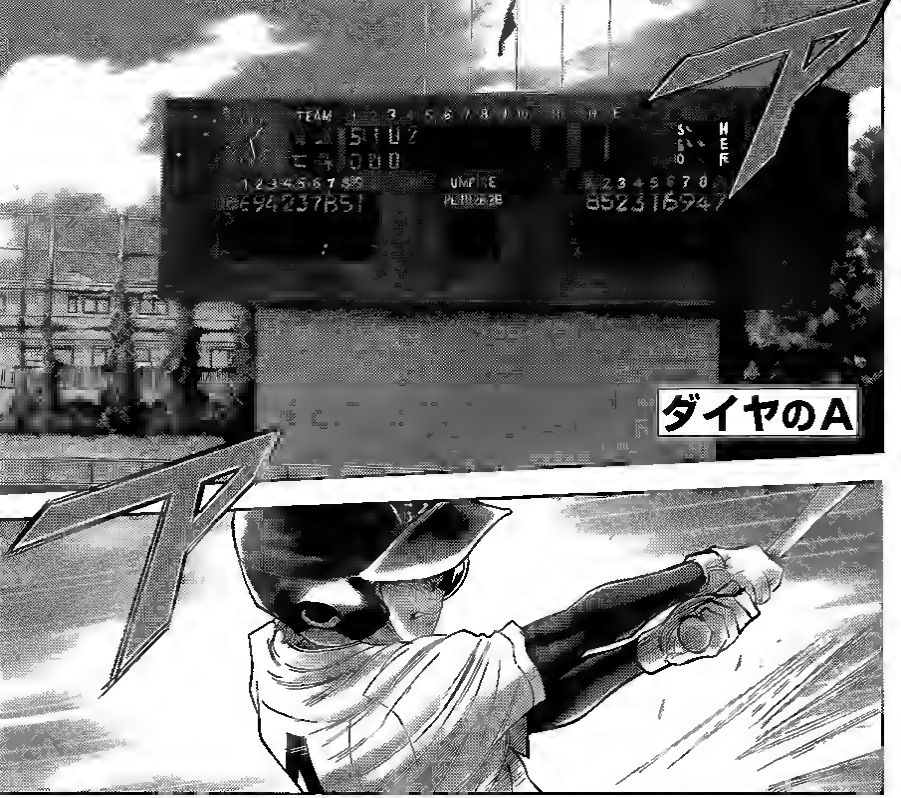
AREN'T YOU HAVING WAY TOO MUCH TROUBLE RIGHT FROM THE START?
UMGMGMG HE TURNED ON PURPOSE TO SHOW OFF HIS JERSEY NUMBER...!
LIKE YOU PITCH ANY BETTER AT THE START OF YOUR GAMES!!!
WE ALREADY GOT 2 OUTS, EVERY-BODY!
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTTA OUR MOUTHES, MORON!!!
(IN UNISON)
SO PLEASE FIND IT IN YOURSELVES TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IN A CALM AND COMPOSED MANNER!
A SCORCHING SHOUTOUT IN FURUYA-KUN'S STYLE.
BECAUSE THEIR POSITIONS ARE CURRENTLY REVERSED.

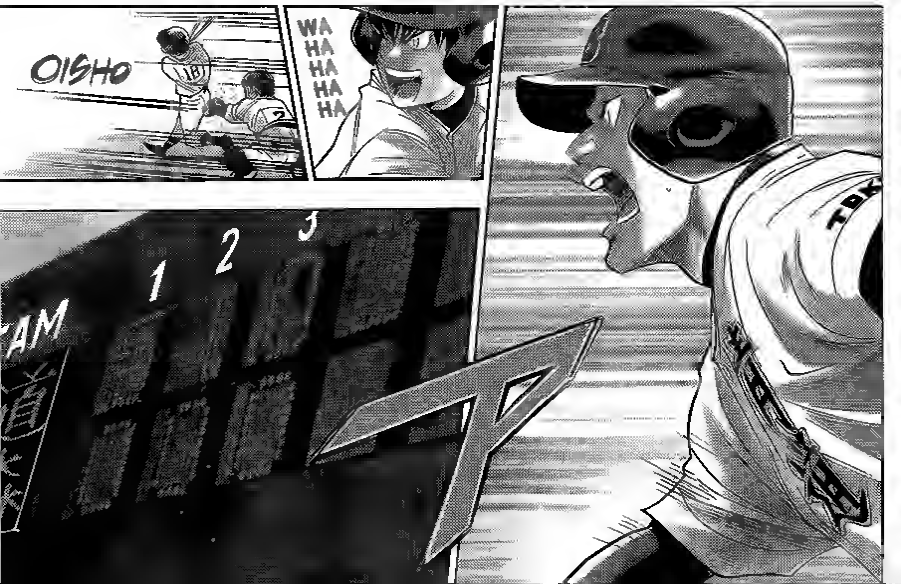
SHIT...
WHAT AM I DOING GETTING CARRIED AWAY OVER THROWING ONE INSIDE PITCH...
ドッ
THAT'S RIGHT... THIS MOUND DOESN'T REALLY BELONG TO YOU ONLY.
RIGHT NOW,
YOU'RE STILL ONLY A SPROUT...
ドッ

...OF A GREAT BIG EYE-CATCHING FLOWER.
THE FLOWER IS SMALL FOR NOW, BUT VERY STRONG.
WHAT KIND OF FLOWER WILL BLOOM IN THE FUTURE
IS UP TO YOU...

STRUCK OUT SWINGING!
THE LAST PITCH WAS TO THE OUTSIDE AGAIN!
THE STARTING PITCHER SAWAMURA EMERGES OUT OF THIS CRISIS THE WINNER WITH NO RUNS LOST!!!

SUCK IN
UO
YEAH, YEAH
NICE PITCHING, NICE PITCHING
BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE FIRST INNING, YOU REALIZE
OOH?
AND THAT WAS A CLUTCH YOU BROUGHT UPON YOURSELF
OOOH?
There're no such people!
Let me say it! There are people waiting for me to say it!


ダイヤのA


OISHO
WA HA HA HA HA
1
2
3

Ace of Diamond
No. 265/Start Line
Presented by
Yuji Terajima
This new team
aims at the TOP!!

CHAPTER 265
STARTING LINE

ズバン

OISHO!
THE GAME IS NOW SET!!!
TEAM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
青道 5 1 0 3 2
七森 0 0 0 0 0
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
94237851
UMPI
PL1B2

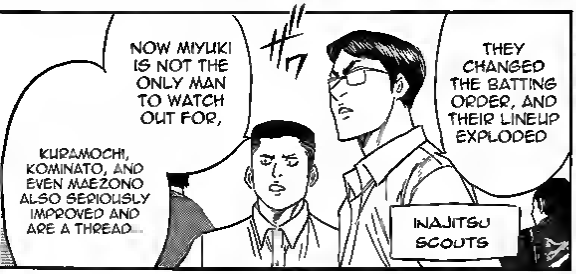
11-0!
THE GAME IS CALLED AFTER 5 INNINGS!
ALTHOUGH THERE WERE RUNNERS, HIS PITCHING WAS RELIABLE WHEN IT COUNTED!
LET'S LINE UP NEATLY!
THANK YOU!
SAWAMURA EIJUN SHUT OUT NANAMORI ACADEMY, ENDING THE GAME AS CALLED, CLEANLY IN 5 INNINGS, ON HIS VERY FIRST TRY AS A STARTING PITCHER IN A TOURNAMENT!

THE COURSES OF MOST OF HIS PITCHES TODAY WERE FAR FROM WEAK, AND YET, HE STILL MAINTAINED ENOUGH SPEED AND EDGE IN HIS PITCHING.
SFX: APPLAUSE
BUT THE BIGGEST GAIN IS THAT HE FINALLY MANAGED TO THROW TO THE INSIDE IN AN ACTUAL MATCH
THANK YOU!
18
SFX APPLAUSE
Eh?
YOU HAVE FINALLY STOOD THERE...
19

AT THE STARTING LINE OF THE ACE DISPUTE.

FALL TOKYO METROPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
ROUND 2
SEIDOU (WEST TOKYO) - NANAMORI (EAST TOKYO)
11 - 0
(CALLED AFTER 5 INNINGS)
THANK YOU!
I SHALL MAKE SURE TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO THE BASEBALL WAY WITH THE SAME INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AS BEFORE!
DON'T RIP OFF TAKANOHANA'S CATCH-PHRASES!!!

T/N TAKANOHANA IS A FAMOUS SUMO WRESTLER AND GREAT CHAMPION

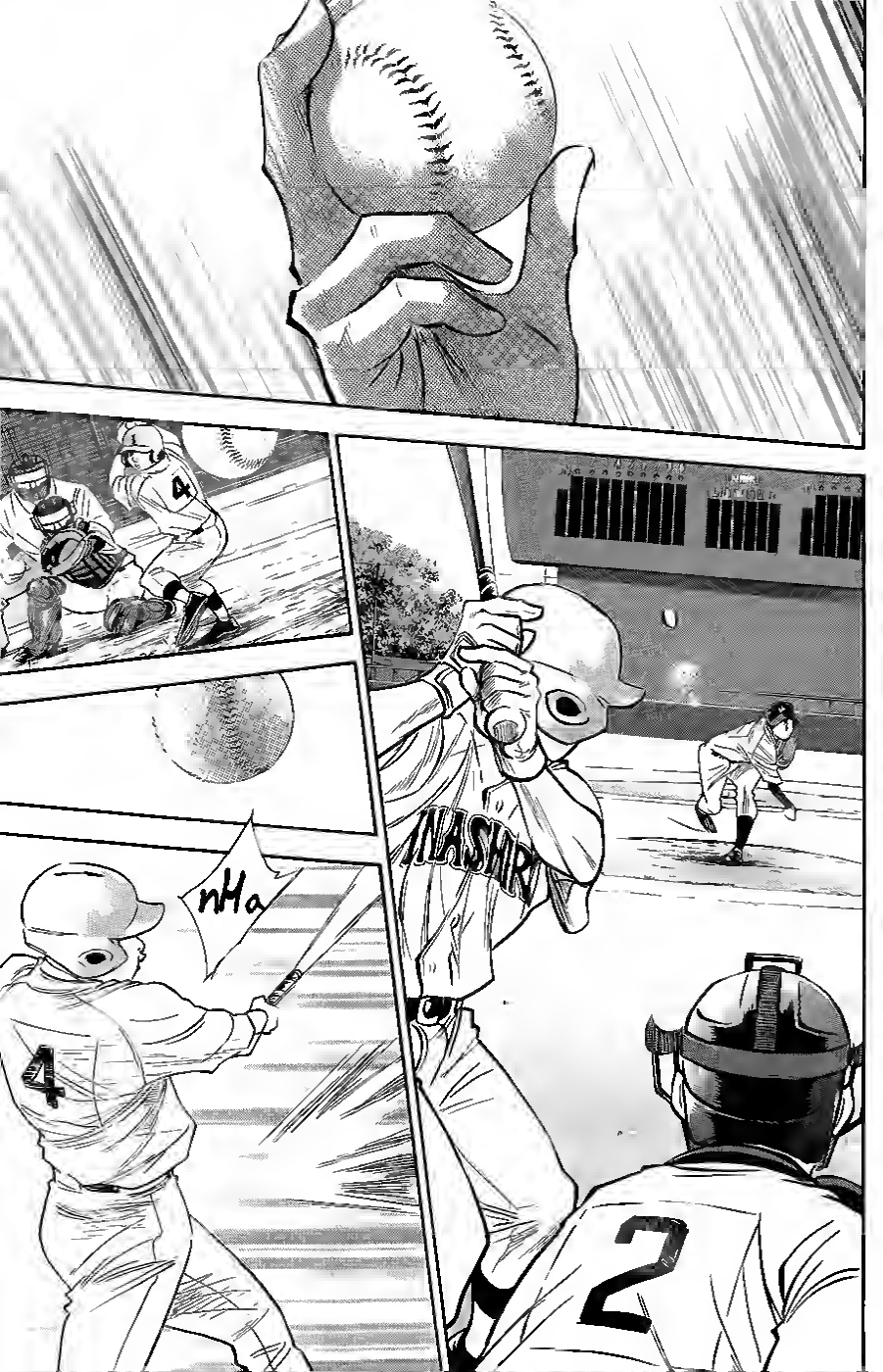

NOW MIYUKI IS NOT THE ONLY MAN TO WATCH OUT FOR,
KURAMOCHI, KOMINATO, AND EVEN MAEZONO ALSO SERIOUSLY IMPROVED AND ARE A THREAD...
THEY CHANGED THE BATTING ORDER, AND THEIR LINEUP EXPLODED
INAJITSU SCOUTS

EVEN WITH PRESERVING FURUYA, IT'S A FREAKIN 5 INNING CALLED GAME FOR THEM, WITH NO LOST RUNS
THEIR PITCHERS HAVE JUST PROVEN THEY'RE NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT EITHER.....

太田スタジアム
SIGN: OOTA STADIUM

Tch
AHHH, THAT WAS CLOSE!
IT ALMOST MADE IT OVER THE FENSE
JUST A BIT MORE!
ALRIGHTY! WE'RE OUTTA THE WOODS, WITH THIS ONE AT LEAST!
GOT OURSELVES TWO OUTS SOMEHOW IN THIS INNING AGAIN!
THEY'VE BEEN CREATING PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES
BUT FALLING SHORT OF A LONG HIT REPEATED-LY
I'M REVIVED, PEOPLE!

ARE THEY SERIOUSLY GONNA LET IT STOP AT ONE RUN?
1 2 3 4 5 8
Inashiro
稲城
1 0 0 0
Ugumori
鵜久森
0 0 0 0
6 9
UMPIRE
IT'S THE FIFTH INNING ALREADY
THEY JUST CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE THAT PITCHER FALL APART...


4
INASHR
nHa
4
2

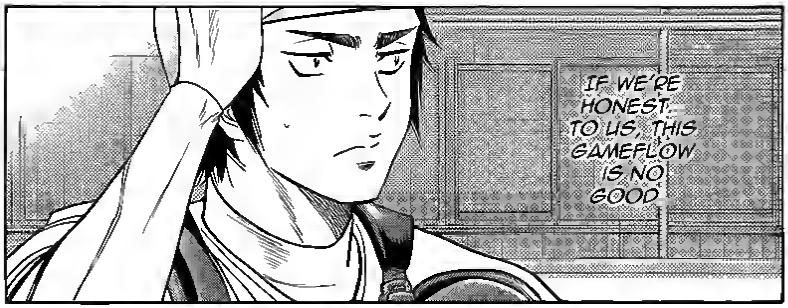
THAT'S THE REASON
FOUL!
THEY CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT PITCH.
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT SLOW CURVEBALL MEASURES LESS THAN 100KMPH.
Too close to comfort—
BUT... IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THAT PITCH.
IT'S BY NO MEANS FAST
AND IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE BREAKING ALL THAT MUCH
FROM WHERE WE'RE SITTING, IT LOOKS LIKE A PERFECTLY HITTABLE PITCH, NO?

...THAT HIS FASTBALLS LOOK FASTER
THAN THEY REALLY ARE.
WASHR
RIGHT FIELD!

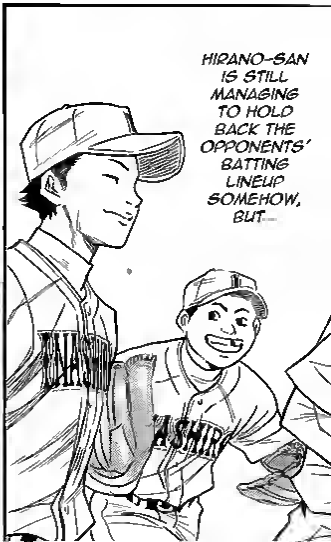
AND IT'S CAREFULLY CAUGHT! 3 OUTS!
YEAH!
NICE PITCH-ING, UME-CHAN!
NICE PITCH-ING!
INASHIRO JITSUGYOU CANNOT TURN THEIR MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES INTO RESULTS,
SCORING NO RUNS IN THIS INNING EITHER!

WELL, THEM POPPING UP A FLY AFTER A FLY ISN'T HELPING EITHER, PLAYING INTO OUR OPPONENTS' HANDS.
IS WHAT GIVES OUR PLAYERS QUITE THE HARD TIME.
THE SPEED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS FASTBALL AND SUPER SLOW CURVEBALL
.....
AS IF WE'LL LET IT END LIKE THIS...
I'LL SHOW HIM A HARD TIME FROM ATOP THE BASE THEN.
SAME GOES FOR YOU
EVERYONE, YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD TO HIT A HOMER!
WE'RE NOT MAJOR LEAGUERS, YOU KNOW!

OKAY, EVERYBODY, LET'S SWITCH GEARS AND MOVE ON!
GOOD DEFENSE CONNECTS TO GOOD OFFENSE!
THE KEY TO A GOOD ATTACK IS RHYTHM!
DON'T ACT LIKE IT WAS YOU! WHO SAID SOMETHING WORTHWHILE!
QUICK TO JUMP ON THE BAND-WAGON, HUH!
IT'S IMPORTANT TO CREATE RHYTHM IN DEFENSE FIRST, RIGHT?!
AGREED! YOU JUST SAID SOMETHING REALLY HELPFUL, FUKU-CHAN!
Nothing less from our captain!


IF WE'RE HONEST, TO US, THIS GAMEFLOW IS NO GOOD.

I CAN'T GET RID OF THE FEELING THAT OUR CRUSHING THE OPPORTUNITIES IN ATTACK ONE AFTER ANOTHER IS BUILDING UP OUR OPPONENTS' MOMENTUM


HIRANO-SAN IS STILL MANAGING TO HOLD BACK THE OPPONENTS' BATTING LINEUP SOMEHOW, BUT...

SMIRK
MAKE A CHANCE? MAKE A MIRACLE?!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO!
LET'S TURN THIS AROUND IN A FIERCE FLURRY!
Ou!
Ou!
Ou!
T/N: THE CHARACTER USED FOR "OU" MEANS PHOENIX

WE CAN'T LET THEM MOUNT EVEN MORE MOMENTUM...
GIVE US A FIERCE HIT!
NO GOOD...
ITSUKI-III!!!
DON'T JUST FALL BACK ON DEFENSE!
WE STILL HAVE ME.
BE MORE ASSERTIVE! TAKE MORE CHANCES!

YOU WON'T LOSE!
IN BASEBALL, IF YOU DON'T LET RUNS GET TAKEN FROM YOU,
1

SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY AT IT, KEEP DEFENDING THERE FOREVER, NARUMIYA MEI.
AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S GONNA BE US MAKING A GRAND COMEBACK!

TBC IN VOLUME 31

STAFF

栗栖正義
林本勇気
長瀬宙夢
浦谷篤志

SPECIAL THANKS

清水貴司
齋藤優作

EDITOR
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
TETSUYA FUJIKAWA

PITCHER WADA TSUYOUSHI TESTS HIS LIMITS IN THE MAJOR LEAGUE! HE WAS THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER I WAS ABLE TO MEET IN PERSON AND INTERVIEW, AND OUR HIGHLY VALUABLE TALK, AS WELL AS THE THOUGHTS ON MY WORK HE SHARED, HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON SAID WORK OF MINE. I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO TALK TO HIM AGAIN.
AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS SUPERB PERFORMANCES!

TERAJIMA YUUJI

編集部では、この作品に対する皆様のご意見・ご感想をお待ちしております。
また「講談社コミックス」にまとめてほしい作品がありましたら、編集部までお知らせください。
〈あて先〉
〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21 講談社
週刊少年マガジン編集部「少年マガジンKC」係
なお、お送りいただいたお手紙・おハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて
著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

★この物語はフィクションであり、実在の人物 団体 出来事などとは一切関係ありません。

作品初出／週刊少年マガジン2011年第44号～第52号

講談社コミックス マガジン KCM4643

ダイヤのA（エース） 30

2012年 3月16日 第1刷発行（定価はカバーに表示してあります）

著 者 寺嶋裕二（てらじまゆうじ）
©Yuji Terajima 2012

発行者 清水保雅
発行所 株式会社 講談社
〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
電話番号 編集部 東京(03)5395-3459
販売部 東京(03)5395-3608
業務部 東京(03)5395-3603
印刷所 株式会社廣済堂
本文製版所 株式会社二葉写真製版
製本所 株式会社廣済堂
講談社

●本書のコピー、スキャン、デジタル化等の無断複製は著作権法上での例外を除き禁じられています。
本書を代行業者等の第三者に依頼してスキャンやデジタル化することはたとえ個人や家庭内の利用でも
著作権法違反です。
●落丁本・乱丁本は購入書店名をご記入のうえ、小社業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り
替えいたします。なお、この本についてのお問い合わせは週刊少年マガジン編集部宛にお願いいたします。

N.D.C.726 191p 18cm Printed in Japan ISBN978-4-06-384643-0

Special Thanks

Redrawers

Kozo no Sekaiso

Kaffamea

Pat

ダイヤのA エース

Ace of Diamond

TDX release